

Cities jump on marriage bandwagon
Portland, OR and Asbury Park, NJ become
the latest to wed gay and lesbian couples.
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New service for tenants
AIDS Housing Alliance
helps PWAs find homes.
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Art Deco mania
The Legion of Honor's
big spring art show.
see Arts section



BAY AREA REPORTER

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Wave of LA weddings

Five Southland couples wed in SF by Cynthia Laird



Sharon Stricker, left, places a ring on Assemblywoman Jackie Goldberg's finger during their wedding ceremony that was officiated by state Senator Sheila Kuehl, far right.

California Assemblywoman Jackie Goldberg (D-Los Angeles) married her longtime partner Monday, March 8 in San Francisco's City Hall, as the number of same-sex marriages passed the 3,700 mark.

The nuptials in the City Hall Rotunda also included five other couples – four of which traveled from Southern California and one couple from Oakland – all of whom are longtime friends.

"It's a wonderful day," a jubilant Goldberg said while she and her partner, Sharon Stricker, filled out their paperwork in a conference room in Assessor Mabel Teng's office. "It's a big step for everybody."

Last year Goldberg authored AB205, which extends many, but not all, of the state rights and responsibilities granted to heterosexual married couples to registered domestic partners. The law does not go into effect until January 2005. When former Governor Gray Davis signed AB205 last fall in San Francisco, Goldberg and Stricker were on stage with him and it seemed to be a major achievement in the struggle for equal

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Cibelli Pacheco and Mariline "Mari" Sacks in an undated photo.

Lesbian killed in car chase

by Ed Walsh

It is an image that will always be with Cibelli Pacheco.

Last Thursday night, March 4, her partner, Mariline "Mari" Sacks, looked back through the rearview mirror, just after she dropped her off at school.

"She looked behind in the mirror and blew me a kiss," a tearful Pacheco told the Bay Area Reporter this week. "We loved each other so much. We were always so nice to each other like that."

It would be the last time the couple would see each other. Fifteen minutes later, Sacks's Honda Civic was broadsided by a man in a stolen Toyota minivan who was trying to get away from police. Sacks was rushed to San Francisco General Hospital, where she died.

After Pacheco got out of school, nearly three hours after she was dropped off, she called Sacks in vain for a ride home. She was surprised that her partner didn't answer because she was always home at that time. She took the bus to their Potrero Hill home and found a note on her front gate to call police.

"I just ran upstairs like crazy," Pacheco said. "On the answering machine, there were tons of messages from police and the hospital."

A police officer first confirmed her worst fear but she was in a state of disbelief until she arrived at SFGH and a nurse confirmed what the police officer said.

Sacks, 45, was a naturalized citizen who first moved to the United States from Brazil 20 years ago. She worked as a housekeeper, nanny, and caregiver. Pacheco, 24, first met Sacks five years ago when she was living in Brazil. The pair hoped to save enough money to eventually buy property in their native country and move back so they could be closer to their families.

A private memorial service was
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State senators reject ADAP cap

Local AIDS agencies brace for cuts by Matthew S. Bajko

As nearly 700 AIDS activists protested outside the state Capitol Monday, March 8, a Senate subcommittee rejected Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's proposal to cap enrollment in an AIDS drug program.

Senator Wes Chesbro (D-Arcata), chair of the Senate Budget Subcommittee on Health and Human Services, announced his committee had identified more than \$21 million in the AIDS Drug Assistance Program account previously untapped. The money comes directly from routine drug rebates the state receives from drug manufacturers and will be used to fund the program.

The budget subcommittee voted 3 to 1 to reject the cap, which AIDS activists estimated would have placed 1,440 people onto a waiting list to receive the life-saving drugs

ADAP provides. In approving several program efficiencies, such as allowing automatic refills of medications for up to six months, the senators said the state would save \$800,000. The amount covers the estimated \$550,000 in savings gained if the program were capped.

"It is our responsibility as elected leaders to find ways to cut waste and streamline state government," Chesbro said. "Democrats are committed to finding inefficiencies in state government and will use any money we find to provide life-saving relief to our most vulnerable citizens."

The senators' vote ends proposed caps not only to ADAP but also to Healthy Families, the Genetically Handicapped Persons Program, and the California Children's Services Program. Capping enrollment in these pro-

grams, the senators argued, would not have saved California any money.

Instead, Chesbro characterized the caps as "just cruel and irresponsible," adding that "these programs provide life-saving services and without these programs the state would be responsible to pay for catastrophic health-care costs that are currently being prevented by these programs."

The fight over ADAP's funding is not over. A state Assembly committee is expected to meet March 15 to take similar action as did the Senate. AIDS lobbyists are now pressuring the governor to accept the Legislature's proposals when he revises his budget in May.

Not all of the \$21 million in ADAP rebate money will go to the program. The senators earmarked \$6 million for the general fund, leaving \$15 million for the program. AIDS

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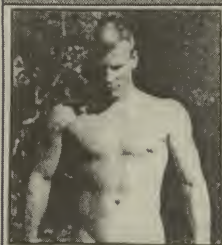


Nearly 700 AIDS advocates from across the state rally on the steps of the Capitol to oppose Governor Schwarzenegger's proposal to cap ADAP.

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hands of supervisors

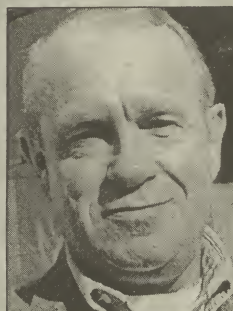
by Zak Szymanski

Mayor Gavin Newsom's nominations for the San Francisco Police Commission are receiving mixed reactions from the LGBT community.

The commission is charged with supervising and setting procedures for the San Francisco Police Department, and was criticized in late 2002 and 2003 for its handling of the "Fajitagate" scandal, in which many of the department's command staff were indicted by a grand jury for allegedly covering up three off-duty officers' possible hate-motivated assault on two civilians. Although the command staff indictments were eventually dismissed – and many of the command staff who were charged have been declared "factually innocent" – voters last year passed Proposition H, which calls for commission appointments to be shared between the mayor and Board of Supervisors.

Previously, the mayor alone made all the appointments to the commission.

Newsom's picks, announced last week, did not include any openly LGBT people; the mayor chose former City Attorney Louise Renne, Omega Boys Club's Executive Director Dr. Joseph Marshall, California Small Business Board member Douglas Chan, and Police Academy gradu-



Commissioner Wayne Friday

ate Joe Alioto Veronese – the son of former Supervisor and mayoral candidate Angela Alioto.

Some gays and progressives still harbor mistrust over Alioto's endorsement of Newsom during the mayoral runoff election that was openly announced as a "trade" in exchange for a position in Newsom's administration; it was a move that continues to raise eyebrows as two of her relatives have now received Newsom-appointed positions (Newsom appointed Alioto's niece, Michela Alioto-Pier, to fill his Board of Supervisors seat, an appointment praised by many).

Meanwhile, openly gay Police Commissioner Wayne Friday, the *Bay Area Reporter's* political editor, had asked Newsom last year

that he not to be reappointed to his position, which could leave the commission without an openly LGBT person for the first time since Mayor Dianne Feinstein was in office.

Politicos and activists agree that appointing an openly LGBT commissioner is important.

"San Francisco's police force is responsible for protecting one of the largest queer populations in the country, but the work of combating homophobia and transphobia within the department still has to be done," said Tina D'Elia with Community United Against Violence. The agency's annual hate crime report often shows that up to half of reported hate crimes are committed by law enforcement officers. "It is essential that there is an LGBT person on the Police Commission, to continue that work, and to have our community represented at all levels of leadership."

Yet considering Newsom's nominations, it will be up to the Board of Supervisors to make that happen.

Under Proposition H, the Police Commission will soon become a seven-member board (up from five), with four of the appointees coming from the mayor's office, and three to be selected by the Board of Supervisors' Rules Committee.

"The mayor's appointments are reduced by one, and the

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Gay marriages continue as high court weighs case

by Matthew S. Bajko

Confident they will prevail in court, city officials continue not only to marry same-sex couples but have booked same-sex nuptials through April and May.

Capping the ceremonies to about 60 a day, the county clerk has scheduled the same-sex weddings all the way to May 11. The anxious brides and grooms are hopeful they will still be able to exchange vows and become "spouses for life" by then.

By press time Wednesday afternoon, the state Supreme Court had yet to decide if it would intervene and stop the ceremonies from proceeding on behalf of both Attorney General Bill Lockyer and three San Francisco residents being represented by an antigay group.

Both parties have asked the state's high court to issue an immediate cease and desist order forcing the city to halt the same-sex weddings and for the court to exercise original jurisdiction in the matter. The request comes after two lower court judges refused to order the city to immediately end the gay marriages, instead asking city officials to return on March 29 to explain why the weddings should continue.

"There is no need for the California Supreme Court to step in at this early stage. More than 3,400

same-sex couples have been married in California over the past few weeks, and the sky has not fallen. To the contrary, the nation has had an unprecedented opportunity to see thousands of loving, committed lesbian and gay couples who wish nothing more than to assume the responsibilities and obligations of marriage," said Kate Kendell, executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights.

NCLR, Lambda Legal, and the American Civil Liberties Union chapters in Northern and Southern California filed briefs on behalf of Equality California, the statewide advocacy group, and five same-sex couples in the California Supreme Court last Friday, March 5. The briefs ensure that recently married couples and their families have a voice in the lawsuit.

"The city and county of San Francisco is following the Constitution; the state is violating it," said Geoffrey Kors, executive director of Equality California. "The California Constitution protects all Californians equally regardless of race, gender, or sexual orientation. Lesbian and gay couples cannot be excluded from this universal protection. Protecting these people is no threat to democracy or society."

Robert Tyler, with the Alliance Defense Fund and counsel for the three citizens in the case, said if the court does not step in then "civil anarchy would erupt."

"Look, just because a rogue mayor decides on his own some law is unconstitutional doesn't make him right. This mayor is wrong," Tyler told reporters while standing on the steps to the state Supreme Court in San Francisco last Friday just minutes after filing a brief in the case.

"California has a compelling reason to determine marriage is between a man and a woman. It is the obligation of those opposed, those who are antimarriage, anti-traditional marriage, they must come and argue why there are not rational reasons to preserve marriage between a man and a woman," argued Tyler.

He also attacked Lockyer's petition, saying it does not make a sufficient case for defending traditional marriage.

"The attorney general requested the Supreme Court to consider the constitutionality of the state's marriage laws yet the attorney general never defends the constitutionality of the state's marriage laws."

Responding to Lockyer's petition to the Supreme Court, City Attorney Dennis Herrera said there is no reason for the court to intervene in the case at this time. Speaking to reporters last Friday, Herrera said the court should instead allow the case to work its way up through the legal system.

"I don't think there has been a

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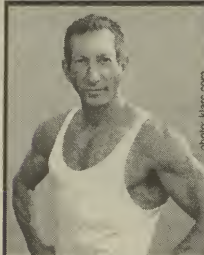
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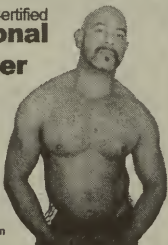
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News in brief

compiled by Cynthia Laird

HRW meeting tonight

The Egyptian government's alleged violent campaign against homosexual conduct will be the featured topic at a meeting tonight (Thursday, March 11) at the San Francisco LGBT Community Center.

Presented by the center and Human Rights Watch, in conjunction with Amnesty International, Al-Fatihah, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, and WILD for Human Rights, the event highlights the recent release of "In a Time of Torture: The Assault on Justice in Egypt's Crackdown on Homosexual Conduct," a report produced by HRW in collaboration with some Egyptian organizations.

Tonight's discussion starts at 6 p.m.; the LGBT center is located at 1800 Market Street.

BCEF dinner Saturday

The fourth annual Breast Cancer Emergency Fund dinner will take place Saturday, March 13 at the ARC, 1500 Howard Street, in San Francisco. The program, affiliated with the AIDS Emergency Fund, provides cash grants to low-income people living with breast cancer to help with utilities and other expenses. Event organizer and longtime BCEF/AEF supporter Sandy "Mama" Reinhardt noted that this year's dinner is in memory of Faith Fancher, a KTVU-Channel 2 reporter who lost her

battle with the disease last year. Ms. Fancher was also a BCEF supporter and attended previous events.

Saturday's event starts with a no-host reception at 7 p.m. followed by dinner at 8. Tickets are \$60 and available by calling 1-866-372-6849, or visiting www.frantix.org. More information is available at www.mamasfamily.org.

Maitri benefit Sunday

Maitri Hospice, an organization that provides compassionate residential care to men and women living with AIDS, will mark its 17th anniversary with its "Bliss" benefit gala Sunday, March 14 at the Bambuddha Lounge, 601 Eddy Street at Larkin, in San Francisco. Singer Tracy Chapman is set to perform; other noted guests will be Third Eye Blind singer Stephan Jenkins, author Armistead Maupin, and Assemblyman Mark Leno (D-San Francisco). The gala will feature cuisine, fine wines, and spirits provided by Young's Market and several of the Bay Area's noted chefs and wine-makers. The event takes place from 5:30-7:30 p.m.

Tickets to Bliss start at \$125; for more information, call (415) 248-1601.

EQCA dinner coming up

There's a lot for Equality California to celebrate and the statewide LGBT lobbying organization will host its annual San Francisco benefit gala next Saturday, March 20. Mayor Gavin New-

som, Palm Springs Mayor Ron Oden, and Canada's first same-sex married couple, Kevin Bourassa and Joe Varnell, are among those being honored, organizers said. Additionally, Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin, the first same-sex couple to be married in San Francisco, will also attend and present an award to Kate Kendell, executive director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights.

The event kicks off with a VIP reception with Newsom at 5:30 p.m., followed by a silent auction. The dinner program begins at 7:30. Tickets start at \$175 and are available by calling Peter Poulos or Tom Teare at (415) 677-8688. The event takes place at the Four Seasons Hotel, 757 Market Street.

Jury selection in Araujo case

Prosecutors and defense attorneys in the Gwen Araujo murder case will begin jury selection Monday, March 15 in Alameda County Superior Court in Fremont. Araujo, 17, was brutally murdered in October 2002 after she was revealed to be a biological male while attending a house party in Newark. Three defendants have been charged with her murder: Jose Merel, Michael Magidson, and Jason Cazares. All have pleaded not guilty. A fourth defendant, Jaros Chase Nabors, pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter during last February's preliminary hearing and agreed to testify against the others. Nabors will serve 11 years in state prison. ▼

TG health benefits expanded

by Zak Szymanski

Three years after the San Francisco Board of Supervisors passed the historic transgender health benefits package for city employees, activists and advocates have finally succeeded in removing the original package's obstacles to accessing appropriate treatments.

On Thursday, February 26, the Health Services Board removed the one-year wait period imposed upon transsexuals in need of healthcare. The board also voted to offer the health benefits package through all of its participating HMOs, rather than just the city plan, and to raise the insurance spending cap from \$50,000 to \$75,000.

"It is a fantastic day for San Francisco," said Marcus Arana, discrimination investigator for the San Francisco Human Rights Commission, after the reforms were passed.

Arana said that the reforms were years in the making, and were made possible only because Supervisors Tom Ammann, Chris Daly, and Bevan Dufty told the Health Services Board they would not sign off on the proposed city-wide health benefits without the revisions to the transgender policies.

Although "transgender" and "transsexual" have become synonymous in the media, the first is actually an umbrella term to include a variety of populations, which may include transsexuals, who make up an estimated 1 percent of the general population. Transsexuals are distinct from other transgenders in that they have a medical diagnosis of transsexual identity and seek medical interventions such as hormones and surgeries to complete their sexual reassignment.

When then-Supervisor Mark Leno put forth the groundbreaking transgender health benefits in 2001, certain compromises were

made to assure passage and ease fears that benefits like transsexual surgeries would overly burden the city budget. At the time, it was reported that there were fewer than 20 identified transsexual city employees, although as Arana points out, an accurate number is nearly impossible to determine. Those responsible for estimating the costs of the benefits assumed that 35 people per year would access the plan's maximum benefits. That didn't happen.

In fact, the \$1.70 collected per month, per city employee to pay for the benefits raised \$4.5 million over the past three years, with only \$156,000 in claims paid.

"The fears of utilization were unreasonably high, and predicated upon irrational projections," Arana told the *Bay Area Reporter*.

Because debating whether transsexual procedures are medically necessary is no longer on the table — that issue was put to rest with the passage of the benefits

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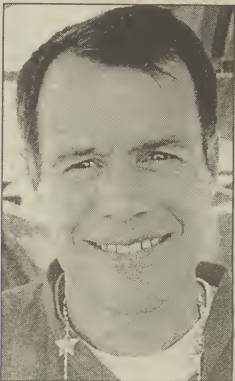
San Jose recognizes gay marriage

by Cynthia Laird

In a major step forward for marriage equality, the San Jose City Council voted Tuesday, March 9 to extend identical benefits to all married city employees, both same-sex and heterosexual.

The 8-1 vote came after more than three hours of debate, openly gay City Council member Ken Yeager told the *Bay Area Reporter* Wednesday morning.

Yeager, who put forth the change, said the new policy will take effect immediately. The policy change only applies to city workers, and city officials did not expect the added cost to be that significant. The benefits offered to married couples are better than those offered to same-sex partners under the city's domestic partner registry.



Ken Yeager

Yeager said that Tuesday's packed council meeting was for the most part a civil exchange of positions on the issue of gay marriage.

"There were actually more people speaking in favor than against," Yeager said. "It wasn't as ugly as such debates in the past. All in all it was more measured than in the past."

While religious fundamentalists did address the council, speaking out against same-sex marriage on religious grounds, Yeager said most of the opposition to the proposal followed the theme of "don't break the law."

The courts have not yet determined the status of marriage licenses issued to same-sex couples in San Francisco. Other cities, including Portland, Oregon, have also continued to issue marriage licenses, while the issuing of licenses in New Paltz, New York was halted after Mayor Jason West was charged with 19 misdemeanor counts in connection with his decision to marry same-sex couples.

Yeager, who's been active in the South Bay LGBT community for 25 years both as an elected official and activist, said that residents there have come a long way since the bitter homophobic rhetoric of years past. He pointed to such a debate in 1979 when the city and county approved ordinances adding gays and lesbians to the non-discrimination codes. Fundamentalists, he said, "jammed" those meetings.

"I guess you could see that as progress," he said, referring to the tone of much of Tuesday's debate.

Yeager also pointed to in-

creased support for same-sex couples at Tuesday's meeting, including ministers from the local interfaith council. There were also a lot of gay people who attended the meeting with their partners and children, he said, and that attests to the maturing of the community.

Tuesday's vote did not come without possible consequences, Yeager noted. In addition to the opposition by Council member Chuck Reed, some religious conservatives threatened recall action, presumably against those who voted for the measure. Yeager said he is not overly concerned.

"It makes sense that I'd be one of those targeted," he said, but he added that he didn't let the threats deter him. Yeager easily won reelection in last Tuesday's election, capturing 85 percent of the vote.

Other developments

Also on Tuesday, David

Knight, the openly gay son of state Senator William "Pete" Knight (D-Palmdale) married his long-time partner, Joe Lazzaro, in San Francisco's City Hall. The couple flew from Baltimore and exchanged vows in a quiet ceremony, according to media reports. Pete Knight is the author of Proposition 22, which voters passed in 2000 and that defines marriage in the state as a union between a man and a woman. The younger Knight is estranged from his father, and spoke out against Proposition 22 four years ago in a *Los Angeles Times* op-ed piece.

In other news, the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors voted Tuesday to join San Francisco's lawsuit defending its issuance of marriage licenses to same-sex couples. The board also urged the county clerk to reconsider his stand against issuing same-sex marriage licenses, the *San Francisco Chronicle* reported. ▽



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OPEN FORUM

Reason to worry

Assemblyman Mark Leno has been trumpeting to anyone who'll listen that likely Democratic presidential nominee John Kerry has assured him that his administration will grant same-sex couples exactly the same 1,049 federal rights that are provided to married heterosexuals.

Last week there were a series of breathless media accounts in which Kerry reportedly told Leno at a fundraiser that he would support extending those 1,049 federal rights to same-sex couples in what would likely be civil unions.

But make no mistake — civil unions are not the same as marriage. As we saw with the San Jose City Council's vote to recognize same-sex marriages of city employees, benefits extended to those married couples are more generous than the benefits available to registered domestic partners.

How can Leno be such a strong advocate for same-sex marriage with AB1967 (his bill to change the definition of marriage in California to include same-sex couples) and yet so willing to undercut same-sex marriage by promoting Kerry's second-class proposal of full federal rights under the term civil unions?

It is disappointing that Leno, who is the driving force in Sacramento for same-sex marriage, would so eagerly embrace such a compromise; although he did acknowledge to us this week that he as well as many gay rights advocates "disagree" with Kerry's position on marriage.

First, Leno must be aware that Kerry probably cannot deliver on his promise without substantial congressional support and action to amend or repeal the federal Defense of Marriage Act.

Second, and more importantly, in his defense of Kerry, Leno ignores the fundamental question: if civil unions are identical in every way to marriages without the word "marriage," why not just allow same-sex marriage? A compelling explanation for Kerry's parsing was presented by CNN political analyst Bill Schneider on March 2, who argued that use of the word "marriage" implies acceptance, while granting equal rights through civil unions implies tolerance without acceptance. That seems to be the position of Kerry and others who support civil unions rather than gay marriage: we'll tolerate you as gay and lesbian couples,

but we won't accept you as equals.

The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court shot down that argument last month when it reaffirmed its November 2003 ruling that same-sex couples in that state are entitled to the full benefits of marriage. Separate but equal rarely, if ever in U.S. history, has been equal, the court said. The court also said that civil unions are not enough.

Molly McKay, the energetic attorney and one of the leaders in the fight for equal marriage rights, told us this week that she thinks Kerry is re-thinking his position — and that is a good thing. "I think he's a bit queasy about how the issue is playing out in the presidential campaign," she said. McKay also speculated that President Bush's endorsement of a federal marriage amendment to the U.S. Constitution banning same-sex marriage has backfired, as more municipalities have either issued marriage licenses to same-sex couples or are effecting policies to recognize marriages performed elsewhere and are in some cases extending the same benefits to same-sex spouses

as are granted to heterosexual married couples.

McKay sees Kerry's evolution on the marriage issue as progress. "He's now come out with everything but the m-word," she said, though she added, "our position is that still codifies second-class citizenship" for same-sex couples.

As someone who has the ear of the presumptive Democratic nominee, Leno bears an awesome responsibility to both Kerry and the LGBT community to make sure that Kerry understands exactly what marriage means for same-sex couples.

This isn't just about a laundry list of rights and obligations, despite what some same-sex advocates — mostly attorneys — may say on the political talk shows. For many of us who were married in San Francisco over the past month, it is about assuming our places as full and equal participants in society.

It's disappointing that a straight man, San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom, seems fundamentally to understand more what is at stake for us than one of our own champions, Mark Leno. ▼

Editorial



A black man and gay marriage

by Bartholomew T. Casimir

To me, gay marriage means that after a lifetime of discrimination within the gay and black communities, society, and many other countries, I, as a black gay man living with HIV infection and rising from a void of drugs and alcohol, can finally affirm myself with a traditional American institution. To my partner and me gay marriage is an assertion of our dignity as two men and our rights as veterans of Vietnam, black and white together to be united by a union that acknowledges our love and commitment to a shared life.

It means that we stood in a long line with other couples witnessing the power of a class of people to rise up and demand their basic human rights. Our power was palpable as a cloud of love and joy enveloping the entire block of the gold domed City Hall, where a truly democratic civic government and its citizens worked together for the validation of all people.

Gay marriage means an elected city official made a conscious human rights decision against discrimination. For once it was not politics as usual. The Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. wrote in "Letter From Birmingham Jail," to "dramatize" an issue so "it can no longer be ignored." Mayor Gavin Newsom has succeeded in dramatizing this discriminatory issue and we have responded.

Gay marriage means that our eyes met during our vows and led us into a meaningful transformation through civic recognition. Our vows began, "With this kiss I thee wed." This was the most romantic moment of my life that I always thought was impossible with another man. We felt transcendent joy and true validity with our "License

and Certificate of Marriage" in hand as our fellow citizens acknowledged our union with rice, rose petals, cheers, and photographs.

Gay marriage means that this 60-year-old black gay man has journeyed far from a segregated childhood in New Orleans, declaring my love for a man through God's will. I now at long last have declared it through civil law.

My marriage to a white man is a culmination of a life that was spent fighting segregation. At the age of 14 I was expelled from an all-white boys Catholic high school because of my leadership in civil disobedience sit-ins at lunch counters and National Youth Marches for Integrated Schools. Moving to San Francisco

at a young age, I kept the cause up by going to the streets with Black and White Men Together and ACT UP, advocating for the rights of people living with AIDS, locally and nationally. I participated in gay civil rights marches in Washington, and was involved with the beginning of 18th Street Services (New Leaf), the Black Coalition on AIDS, and Lesbians and Gays of African Descent for Democratic Action. But to this date, my most potent act of civil rights and integration is my declaration of love. Through marriage, the highest human acknowledgment of privilege, I declared freedom, integration, and liberation.

Mayor Newsom is accused of violating the established law and acting against the will of the majority. Having to do the same myself in my fight for black and gay civil rights, I find such arguments self-condemning. There was a time when it was

against the law and the will of the majority for any interracial couple to marry. California then led the way in challenging bans on interracial marriage in a 1948 state Supreme Court ruling. It was a decade later before the whole nation followed suit with a U.S. Supreme Court ruling that affirmed that the "freedom to marry" is a basic right of all Americans.

Just as there was a time when established law instituted Jim Crow restrictions on blacks, allowing the supposed majority to institutionalize their racist bigotries, now there is threat to try to change our Constitution to institutionalize unfair restrictions on gay people. Homophobia and racism are frequently two sides of the same coin. Many ultra-conservatives who oppose gay rights have been staunch opponents of affirmative action. Some black conservative political and religious leaders are exploring Republicans to aggressively tap into black hostility toward gay marriage and use that as the wedge issue to drive more blacks to support Bush's re-election in 2004.

My motivation for civil disobedience activism is inspired by the King's cause that "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." That's still true. It's a risky — even dangerous — tendency for black Americans to forget that.

I have also been influenced by the inspirational vision of James Baldwin that gays are "the chief instrument of cultural renovation." I think marriage is that vision.

Those who oppose gay marriage as a civil rights movement are committing the mortal sins of contempt, intolerance, and deception based on ignorance. ▼

Guest Opinion

LETTERS

Newsom, Gonzalez as grand marshals

Mayor Gavin Newsom is to be commended and supported for his stand on marriage equality. Let's not forget, though, that his former opponent Matt Gonzalez has repeatedly affirmed the freedom to marry, and joined the Greens in part because we unflinchingly support the freedom to marry. As a result, the mayoral campaign ended up demonstrating a political consensus for marriage equality in San Francisco, on which the mayor was able to act. Board of Supervisors President Gonzalez has encouraged his supporters to support Mayor Newsom when he is right, and this is one of those times.

I'd like to see both Newsom and Gonzalez as Pride Parade grand marshals, in a show of unity. I'd also like us to honor Mabel Teng and Dennis Herrera, who have each in their own roles stepped up to show leadership on marriage equality.

Finally, I'd like us to honor Jason West, the Green mayor of New Paltz, New York, who was the second mayor in the United States to perform same-sex marriages. Mayor West is performing marriages at great risk of prosecution and recall, and we ought to invite him to ride at the head of our parade.

Paul Quick
San Francisco

No downfall of marriage

I am 22 years old and am a gay man of Filipino-American heritage. I do not see myself being married or civilly-united anytime soon. However, I applaud what Mayor Gavin Newsom has done in the past few weeks (and I didn't even vote for him). I just wrote a reaction paper on the same-sex marriage controversy for my sociology class at City College of San Francisco and while writing it, I was thinking: These conservatives bash gay marriages because they feel that they are against God's will and do not result in the proper upbringing of children. Carol Channing married her sweetheart after over a half-century apart and they have no plans to have children, so why aren't the conservatives going after people such as them?

Rosie O'Donnell and Kelli Carpenter (and thousands of other couples like them) will not bring about the downfall of marriage. Henry VIII perverted the institution of marriage when he broke away from the Catholic Church and created the Anglican Church so that he could divorce Catherine of Aragon and marry some other woman. The fact that he married several more women in his lifetime doesn't help his case, either. (This is not to say that the Anglicans are perverted; I don't want to start any controversy here.) Britney Spears perverted the institution of marriage when she and Jason Alexander allegedly got inebriated in Las Vegas during New Year's weekend and had their 55-hour marriage. Beyonce Knowles's younger sister, Solange Knowles, got married at 17 to a college football player and had the gall to call her marriage a "phase." I could go on and on and on, but I'd just like to say that before these muckraking bitches throw stones at gay couples and their families (of orientation and procreation), they ought to look elsewhere.

Alex D. Sarmiento
Vallejo, California

Same-sex marriage is complex

I've been actively supporting the historic S.F. marry-in, mostly by reporting and commenting online at IndyBay, (www.indybay.org/news/). I've also written a song protesting Representative Marilyn Musgrave's "hate amendment."

I hope everyone will defend our U.S. and state constitutions from anti-freedom amendments (perhaps through MeetUp (antiban.meetup.com)).

Yet let us remember, as Zak Szymanski illustrates, that "same-sex" and "marriage" are far more complex than most kultur-kampf combatants admit ("*LGB-TIQs challenge marriage rhetoric*," March 4).

To provide an open forum for uncensored debate, I'm setting up a "SaveFreedom" Yahoo group (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SaveFreedom/>), unmoderated. Everyone, even non-members, may post news and views. Just send your e-mails to savefreedom@yahoo.com.

Tortuga Bi Liberty
San Francisco

Party loyalty?

I feel Wayne Friday is off track when he criticizes registered Democrats who don't always toe the party line ("*Democrats fight to regain U.S. Senate*," *Our Man Friday*, March 4). Using that same logic, David Duke should have been embraced by all Republicans when he ran for office back in the 1980s. Imagine the results of blind loyalty to that candidacy.

In that same vein, there are any number of candidates whose politics can and should cross party lines. An astute voter will examine independent choices that go beyond the expediency of slate mailers, blind endorsements, and politics as usual.

For me, it comes down to the issues and who can best represent them. For San Franciscans, Friday might heed the example of the majority of Democrats who voted for Matt Gonzalez for mayor. Should

their voices be discounted because they dared to vote their conscience?

Perhaps Friday would be more comfortable with identifying Democratic candidates in the same spirit of current queer media labels. "Unabashedly" Democrat? Friday gives two big thumbs up. "Out" Democrat? Okay, but keep your eye on that candidate. Just a Democrat, possibly capable of critical thinking and alternate choices? Mr. Friday says duck and cover!

Charles J. Barragan III
San Francisco

ADAP under attack

It scares me that the ADAP program is under funding attack. Many people rely on ADAP. I am one of those people. Without ADAP I would most likely be dead. ADAP saves lives; it has saved mine. We, struggling with AIDS, knew this situation with funding for ADAP was to become an issue because more and more infection rates continue to rise.

I wonder how President Bush can spend so much on AIDS in another country and yet not help his own tax-paying U.S. citizens try to survive in the country his Supreme Court judges awarded him the responsibility to serve and protect four years ago. I have thought about going to Canada to buy my AIDS drugs should ADAP die before I do. Canada's policy on how it caps insurance companies makes sense to me. Bush is so tied to our insurance companies that prices will only get worse instead of better. With HIV on the rise everywhere in the U.S., it would appear Bush is the one screwing America without a condom.

In reading the latest statistics regarding ADAP there were close to 700 cases of low-income people on waiting lists for ADAP. In West Virginia three HIV-positive people died in 2003 while on the waiting list. Federal spending needs to be increased by \$214 million to remove all the current access restrictions. Here is a suggestion for Bush: Maybe we can bring our troops home from overseas. This would immediately save a few billion dollars in war expenses, and then utilize some of those funds to save some of our own troops waiting in the ADAP waiting line on the battlefield of the AIDS war.

Tom Finan
San Francisco

Free Martha!

No one could think any less of George Bush if, as his last act in office this year, he were to issue a presidential pardon to Martha Stewart. We need to start a letter writing campaign advocating the liberation of the domestic diva from her horrible fate.

It's a good thing.

Bruce Auld
San Francisco

George's world

I want to live in George W. Bush's world. In his world, our economy is booming and jobs are being created as we speak. The wealthiest of Americans are generous with their donations and they compassionately buy things that they don't really need just so the economy is flush with cash. In Dick Cheney's world, we can trust large for-profit corporations to run homeless shelters and food lines right out of their headquarters. They also donate huge chunks of their profits to pay for the healthcare of children without insurance. No child goes without food or shelter as long as there's an Enron or Halliburton ready to help out with just a phone call.

In their world, it doesn't matter that manufacturing jobs are outsourced to other countries with cheap labor because everyone in America has access to higher education if they just want it bad enough. With enough pure drive, and just a few family ties, anyone can become an executive.

In Mr. Bush's America, there is no racism so there is no need for affirmative action to overcome racial bias. Marriage is between a man and a woman since even the craziest straight person is clearly superior to the healthiest homosexual. Jesus Christ is everyone's savior and becoming "born again" is finally recognized as the one true path to a strong nation. Life is simple and clear with absolute truths and no moral ambiguity. It is debated about whether our national motto should become "Survival of the Fittest," but because that is an evolutionary concept, it is defeated in favor of "In God We Trust" since it's already on the money.

If I could live in his world, I wouldn't have to worry about the environment. The earth's resources are plentiful enough if you know where to dig. Global warming just plain doesn't matter, since the rapture will come long before we have to worry about it or, as a backup plan, we all just move to Mars and start over.

We've earned the respect of the rest of the world with our preemptive stance on world terrorism. "Hooray!" we all chant, that we are no longer perceived as the whiny "wimps" of the Clinton era.

In Bush's world, we would all be much safer, wealthier, and happier. Trouble is, like Freddy Kruger, you can only access it in your dreams.

Kimeron Hardin
San Carlos, California

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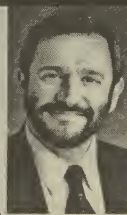
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DENTISTRY

Marriage rights to-do list

by Paula Martinac

After George Bush urged the U.S. Congress to write anti-gay discrimination into the American Constitution, I found myself feeling incredibly sad. Visiting a pro-marriage Web site, I gazed at moving photos of jubilant same-sex couples emerging from San Francisco's City Hall with their marriage licenses held high. Reading my local newspaper, I got emotional about an obituary for Bart Howard, the songwriter who gave us the lovely standard "Fly Me to the Moon," and who, the obit reported, is survived by his male companion of 58 years.

But even though sadness right now is understandable, gay people also need to get mad and take action. After all, the issue isn't really just equal marriage rights, which could take another generation for our community to achieve. The president of the United States has officially proclaimed that, although "America is a free society," gay people aren't as free as everyone else. Not only that, but Bush expects lesbians and gay men to accept our lesser status graciously. As he put it, efforts to pass the heinous Federal Marriage Amendment should progress "without bitterness or anger."

Given Bush's fighting words, it doesn't really matter that many Washington politicians believe the FMA will never pass Congress. What really matters is the strong message Bush sent to straight Americans: Gay people are less than you, and that's the way it should be.

So here's a list of suggestions for getting mad and fighting Bush's plan to use marriage rights as a smoke screen for his own growing unpopularity.

1. Read the amendments to the U.S. Constitution, which are widely available online. Be familiar with what they actually say, and talk to friends and family about them. Unlike the FMA, which targets gay people for discrimination, other amendments have actually expanded the rights of citizens, particularly African Americans, women, and young people.

2. If you're a progressive, make

a donation to the Democratic Party — even if the party's presidential nominee doesn't share every single one of your views. Send a letter with your contribution saying you'll give more when the party officially embraces marriage rights for gay couples as part of its platform.

3. Sign an anti-FMA petition and pass it along to straight friends and family. The People for the American Way (pfaw.org) are sponsoring "Save Our Constitution," which lifts the issue beyond the realm of gay marriage and places it in the broader context of the threat the FMA poses to the constitutional rights of all Americans. Even straight people who don't know what to

think about same-sex marriage should be worried about a president who mandates writing discrimination into the Constitution.

4. Buy a pro-marriage-rights poster as part of your wedding present to a straight couple in your life; let them know you uphold their right to marry whom they choose and hope they will do the same for you. A gay-supportive straight photographer has made available a beautiful poster called "Justly Married," showing the steps of San Francisco's City Hall the day after Valentine's Day strewn with rice and rose petals (for purchase, visit ephemera.org/justly). All of the photographer's proceeds go to DontAmend.com, an anti-FMA organization.

5. Organize against state officials who are using Bush's support of the FMA to shore up antigay legislation at the state level. The Rocky Mountain Progressive Network (rmpn.org) has launched a campaign in Colorado called the "Fidelity Pledge," designed to expose the hypocrisy of straight elected officials there. Politicians are being asked to sign a public



Christine Smith

oath that they are personally "protecting" the institution of marriage by being faithful to their spouses. Maybe we can move the campaign to California and see if Governor Schwarzenegger — who said last month that he's afraid that gays getting married will incite riots — will sign.

6. Talk to straight colleagues, friends, and family about the war that's being waged against the gay people they care about. Talking points are available at the Web site of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (nglft.org), which has a Marriage Information Resource Center with documents like "Speak from Your Heart to Family and Friends" and "Conservatives Against the Federal Marriage Amendment." For the religious folks in your life, there's information on what the Bible says about homosexuality and marriage at religiotolerance.org.

7. Finally, don't get fixated on Mary Cheney's refusal to become a marriage-rights activist — as if she alone stands in the way of our equality. What if all the people who've posted letters to the vice president's daughter at Dear-Mary.com also sent thoughtful letters about the FMA or same-sex marriage to the editors of their local papers? We might then be able to engage the sympathies of people who can really have an influence on the Bush-Cheney team — all the voters who will go to the polls in November. ▼

Paula Martinac is a Lambda Literary Award-winning author of eight books and editor in chief of Q Syndicate. She can be reached care of this publication or at Lesbian Notions at qsyndicate.com.

Scam artist back on the phone lines

by Zak Szymanski

H e's back.

A frequent but not well-known enough scam is circulating throughout the leather community once again.

The scam involves a male collector caller who pretends to be someone recognized in familiar circles; the caller usually says he has been robbed and needs the call recipient to wire him money in Los Angeles. Leather community leaders believe he gets his names and contact information through brochures and rosters available at various events; in the most recent case, probably materials from the Imperial Court Coronation held over the weekend of February 28.

The latest incident involved the caller pretending to be well-known leather activist Peter Fiske,

who was discovered to be safe at home, not stranded in another city.

Robert Davolt, author, leatherman, and former publisher of *Drummer* magazine, is leading the effort to make the public aware of the scam. Davolt has graphics available for publishers to slip into newsletters, as well as public service announcements for organizers to read at events. Davolt said that he has spoken with Western Union officials, who are unable to get involved without police documentation. Police, however, often won't cross jurisdictions for the small amount of money (under \$500) asked for by the caller.

"In a crude sort of way it really is the perfect scam," said Davolt, noting that Western Union is set up to accept money for people who have lost their identification, thus the caller can claim to be anyone.

The scam artist — or artists — has been operating for several years, occasionally rearing his head and nabbing unaware victims. He does not limit himself to leather circles; similar calls have been made based upon Pride materials and even articles in the *Bay Area Reporter*.

"He reads publications and carefully triangulates relationships so he can find someone who may want to help that person, but who may not know that person well enough to identify him over the phone," said Davolt. "At this point we feel there is no hope of catching him. We can only hope to deny him fresh victims."

To view and copy the free public service announcements, visit <http://www.leathercigarboy.com/StophetheSCAM.htm>. Davolt is also open to other suggestions to stopping the scam artist; e-mail him at rwadavolt@pacbell.net. ▼

POLITICS

Kerry-Edwards 'dream ticket' no sure thing

by Wayne Friday

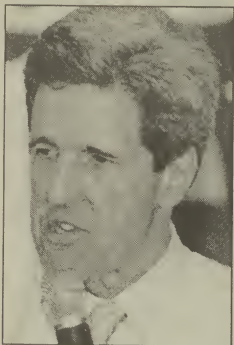
Now that Massachusetts Senator **John Kerry** has locked up the Democratic presidential nomination, many in the party, including, incidentally, some in Kerry's camp, are clamoring for a Kerry-Edwards ticket to take on President **George W. Bush** in November. Although North Carolina Senator **John Edwards** ended his pursuit of his party's nomination by pointedly praising Kerry and pledging to "do everything in my power" to help Kerry win the White House, it is far from certain that Edwards will end up as Kerry's vice presidential running mate.

Clearly Edwards, with his gracious withdrawal from the race and urging his followers to quickly join the Kerry cause, went a long way toward being tapped for the veep slot, but it has often been said in American politics that "there are 10 reasons to pick a vice presidential running mate - No. 1 is to pick someone who can help you win, and the other nine don't matter." Edwards certainly has to be on the so-called short-list that Kerry is putting together, but he might not be on it when the ultimate choice is made.

If history offers any guide, it would actually be somewhat unusual for Kerry to turn to his former rival to fill out the ticket, since it has only been done twice in modern times. In 1980, Republican **Ronald Reagan** picked **George H.W. Bush** to help him unify the GOP, and 44 years ago, in 1960, another Massachusetts senator with the initials of JFK (John Fitzgerald Kennedy), after publicly stating that it didn't much matter who he chose as his running mate, turned to a bitter political rival, Senator Lyndon Johnson, who helped Kennedy carry Texas and then, as we all know, later went on to become the nation's 36th president, proving, in fact, that it does indeed matter who one chooses as a running mate.

While Edwards has proven to be one of the Democratic Party's most talented speakers and has shown a particular ability for addressing the anxieties of blue-collar Democrats, it is questionable whether Edwards, particularly in light of his failure to carry Georgia or any of the other "Super Tuesday" states, would actually bring much strength to the Democratic ticket in southern states, where Bush is strongest. Many Democratic strategists feel that Florida's two U.S. Senators, **Bob Graham**, a former popular governor who briefly entered the Democratic presidential contest, or the state's junior U.S. Senator **Bill Nelson**, a former astronaut, would help a Kerry ticket in the Sunshine State where 27 electoral votes are at stake and where Democrats still feel the 2000 election was stolen from them.

In addition to the two Florida senators, Kerry is reportedly considering Indiana U.S. Senator **Evan Bayh**, who could help in some of those midwestern Bush-leaning states (Indiana has 11 electoral votes), as well as New



Senator John Kerry at an Oakland rally last month.

Mexico Governor **Bill Richardson**, who would become the first Hispanic on a national party ticket. Some Democrats were talking this week that Kerry might even do the unconventional and pick a woman running mate and the two names most often mentioned are California Senator **Dianne Feinstein** and Kansas Governor **Kathleen Sebelius**. However, Feinstein will be 71 by convention

time, and Sebelius is a political unknown coming from a state with only six electoral votes.

If I were in a betting mood on this one I'd still go with either a Kerry-Edwards or Kerry-Graham ticket against Bush in November.

Election review

The March 2 primary election turnout was one of the lowest in recent state history. In San Francisco, just 41.35 percent of voters went to the polls, according to the Department of Elections. Statewide, California Republicans predictably nominated former California Secretary of State **Bill Jones**, an anti-gay, anti-abortion conservative as its Senate nominee, it is unlikely that even the endorsement of Governor **Arnold Schwarzenegger** can pull out this one against the hard-campaigning Democratic Senator **Barbara Boxer**.

Incidentally, one of the latest rumors out of Washington is that the Kerry campaign isn't all that happy with current DNC Chairman **Terry McAuliffe** and is looking to replace him with an exceptionally smart political strategist (are you reading this, **Willie Brown**?).

Locally, there were no election surprises. State Board of Equalization Chairwoman **Carole Migden** (D) is on her way to returning to the Legislature next year to replace termed-out state Senator **John Burton**; Assemblyman **Mark Leno** got the highest number of votes of anyone on the local ticket; and I think the political career of one **Gilbert Criswell** might be over - once again Criswell, a candidate for the Demo County Central Committee in the 13th Assembly District came in dead last, garnering fewer votes than the "write-in" category.

Nationally, with Republicans holding only a 51-to-48 edge (with one independent who votes with the Democrats), the announcement last week by GOP

Senator **Ben Nighthorse Campbell** (R-Colorado) that he is retiring gives Democrats new hopes of retaking control of the U.S. Senate after the November elections.

Politics and people

The Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund announced this week that **Chrissy Gephardt**, the out lesbian daughter of former Democratic presidential candidate Representative **Dick Gephardt** (Missouri), has been elected to its board of directors. The younger Gephardt strongly supports same-sex marriage and spent last summer and fall working on her father's campaign as its LGBT outreach director. The Victory Fund works to recruit, train, and support openly gay and lesbian candidates for public office. It made the announcement at its recent board meeting in Atlanta. On Tuesday, the National Stonewall Democrats announced that Chrissy Gephardt is the director of the organization's "Grassroots Campaign Corps," where she will work to organize LGBT Americans and get out the vote drives.

In Lubbock, Texas (George Bush's Texas, that is) federal Judge **Sam Cummings** last week ruled against gay students who sued after they were barred from meeting on a high school campus. The Lubbock Gay Straight Alliance said the school district violated students' constitutional rights; the judge ruled that school officials should determine what subject matter is allowed on campus.

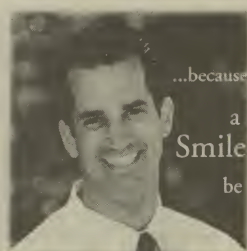
Is there anything better than seeing the images of two truly wonderful women (and longtime friends) - **Phyllis Lyon** and **Del Martin** - in virtually every national publication regarding their having been the first couple to be married at San Francisco's City Hall? Damn, we have to be proud. How about doing away with all those numerous Pride Parade grand marshals and instead make Lyon and Martin the only grand marshals this year.

You got it here. Where do they stand on gay marriage? George W. Bush: when he was a candidate for president in 2000, Bush said he opposed gay marriage but said individual states "can do what they want to." That was before those "activist judges" got involved. Now, Bush backs a constitutional amendment that would strictly define marriage as a union between a man and a woman.

Senator John F. Kerry: says he opposes gay marriage but supports civil unions. He's against a federal amendment that would ban gay marriage but would support amending the Massachusetts Constitution as long as it grants civil unions to gay couples and bestows on them the very same legal benefits that straight couples receive under state law.

Finally, my "Quote of the Week" (from state Senate leader John Burton, who appears to have fallen under Schwarzenegger's spell): "I've served under five governors and to be truthful, the only one I've known that actually had the ability and confidence in himself to say 'wait a minute, maybe this can be done another way,' is Governor Schwarzenegger. Some of the other governors were either too stubborn or were not secure in themselves."

And how was your week? ▼



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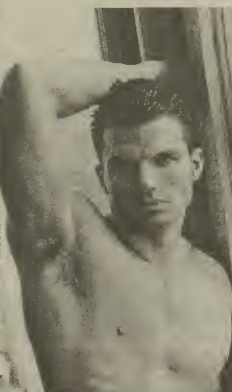
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Why is ballet so gay?

by Liz Highleyman

March 12, 1889 (115 years ago this week): Vaslav Nijinsky is born in Kiev, Russia.

Gay men have long played a prominent role in the arts, especially in ballet. Three of the greatest ballet artists of all time—Sergei Diaghilev, Vaslav Nijinsky, and Rudolf Nureyev—were homosexual or bisexual.

Diaghilev was born in March 1872 in Novgorod, Russia. A renowned choreographer, he created the Ballets Russes and profoundly shaped the development of the art. Diaghilev was an unabashed homosexual, and reportedly once told a friend, "It is absolutely necessary for me to make love three times a day." Diaghilev nurtured the talents of many young men, among them his lover Vaslav Nijinsky.

Nijinsky was born in March 1889 in Kiev, Russia. Both of his parents were dancers, and he and his sister trained at the Imperial Ballet School. As the principal male dancer of the Ballets Russes, Nijinsky won acclaim throughout Europe. Famed for his spectacular jumps and his sensuous, androgynous roles, Nijinsky redefined the image of the male ballet dancer. In one of his most famous performances, *L'après-midi d'un faune* (*Afternoon of a Faun*), Nijinsky, playing the title role, masturbated with a scarf, and his pelvic thrusts created a scandal.

In 1913, Nijinsky married dancer Romola de Pulsy, which caused Diaghilev to end their relationship and dismiss Nijinsky from his company. Not long after, Nijinsky was diagnosed with paranoid schizophrenia. His wife had him committed to a mental hospital, and he lived in various institutions until his death in 1950.

Not until a decade after Nijinsky's death would the dance world again see a male ballet star of his



Russian dancer Vaslav Nijinsky

caliber. Rudolf Nureyev also changed public perceptions of male dancers. But in contrast to Nijinsky's androgyny, Nureyev presented an athletic, masculine image.

Nureyev was born on a train in eastern Siberia in March 1938. Despite his father's objections, he began dancing as a child, and as a teen attended the Leningrad Ballet School. After graduation, he became a principal dancer with the Kirov Ballet. During the Kirov's tour in Paris in 1961, Nureyev eluded his bodyguards and defected to the west.

Nureyev's celebrated "leap to freedom" allowed him to openly

pursue sexual relations with men for the first time. He trained and performed with Danish Royal Ballet star Erik Bruhn, who Nureyev said was "the only dancer who has anything to show me I don't already know." The two men fell in love, but their relationship was turbulent from the start—"pure Strindberg," as Bruhn later described it.

Although Nureyev also had long-term relationships with director Wallace Potts and dancer Robert Tracy, he was renowned for his many sexual liaisons with men. On one occasion, he slipped out during the intermission of a performance and was detained by police for having sex in a public lavatory, enraging his famous costar, Dame Margot Fonteyn. Nureyev performed with international dance companies into his 50s and directed the Paris Opera Ballet until his death from AIDS in 1993.

Although often regarded as unmanly, ballet was originally based on the moves of fencing, and requires great physical strength and endurance. Today, male ballet dancers' sensuous movements and costumes challenge conventional notions about the appropriate display of the male body. Even if ballet dancers are no more likely to be gay than straight, the art form has an undeniable homoerotic appeal. ▼

Liz Highleyman is a freelance writer and editor who has written widely on health, sexuality, and politics. She can be reached at this publication or at PastOut@qsyndicate.com.

Suggested reading

Kopelson, Kevin. 1997. *The Queer Afterlife of Vaslav Nijinsky* (Stanford University Press).

Solway, Diane. 1998. *Nureyev: His Life* (William Morrow).

Court lets anti-Scouts ruling stand

by Michael Kirkland, UPI

The U.S. Supreme Court on Monday, March 8 let stand a lower court ruling allowing Connecticut to drop the Boy Scouts of America from a charities list because of the group's discrimination against homosexuals.

The high court's action sets no precedent and does not put the Supreme Court on record as favoring the lower-court decision. It simply means that the justices, voting behind closed doors, did not choose to review it. A majority of the Supreme Court ruled in 2000's *Boy Scouts v. Dale* that the organization was private, not an agent of government, and did not have to admit gay Scouts or scout masters.

Connecticut runs a charitable campaign, much like many other states and the federal government, in which state employees are provided a directory of 900 private charities and allowed to check off donations to individual groups from payroll deductions.

"Boy Scout councils had participated in the campaign for 30 years before Connecticut removed

them" in 2000, the Scouts and the Connecticut River Council told the Supreme Court. After the Supreme Court's decision in *Dale*, "state officials determined that state law prohibiting the state from engaging in discrimination required the exclusion of the Boy Scouts from the campaign," the Scouts said.

When the Scouts took the state to federal court, a judge ruled that Connecticut was within its rights and was not forcing the Scouts to accept homosexuals. A federal appeals court then recognized that the Scouts had the right to exclude homosexuals under the First Amendment's right to free association, but said the state's removal of the organization from the campaign was also protected. The Boy Scouts then asked the Supreme Court for review.

"The decision below [in the appeals court] would limit *Dale* to instances of direct regulation of group membership," the Scouts said in a petition, "allowing states to impose whatever other penalties they like on private expressive organizations whose beliefs and membership policies do not conform to the orthodoxies of state

officials."

The Scouts said the appeals court's "purported bright-line distinction between direct prohibition and indirect burden also conflict[s] with this [Supreme] Court's decisions holding that government may not exclude an otherwise-qualified group from a [public] forum or program because of the group's viewpoint."

In its own brief asking for the Supreme Court not to intervene, Connecticut said the Supreme Court's decision in 1985's *Cornelius v. NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund* was the prevailing precedent. "*Cornelius* holds that access to a governmental charitable campaign 'can be restricted as long as the restrictions are reasonable and not an effort to suppress expression merely because public officials oppose the speakers' view,'" the state said. "The BSA is free to set its own membership policies," the state said, "and the state is not attempting to force the BSA to give up its rights."

The case is No. 03-956, *Boy Scouts of America and Conn. Rivers Council vs. Comptroller Wyman et al.* ▼

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Blacks mobilize to create health agenda

by Matthew S. Bajko

Citing a lack of studies looking specifically at San Francisco's gay black men, community activists are mobilizing to see that research studies examine their needs. A task force has been formed and is meeting to create and push a gay black men's health agenda.

"We are dealing with institutional inertia. It has become routine to overlook communities of color," said Andre Robertson, director of HIV prevention for the Black Coalition on AIDS. "We say on the one hand African Americans are disproportionately impacted but how would you know that if they are not studied?"

Gavin Morrow-Hall, a gay black man who is a community educator with the city's HIV research section, acknowledges that while studies have included gay black men, "I am not aware of a study done looking at HIV prevention needs of black gay men specifically."

To help rectify that, Morrow-Hall is assisting community members in developing a plan of action and a list of priorities for what types of research they would like to see the Department of Public Health fund.

"This is being community driven. It is not being done by DPH. They are working in partnership with members of the community," said Morrow-Hall. "People have different ideas of where we need to go. The first step is to prioritize where we want to go from here. From that list we will develop the action plan."

The city's gay African American community is also rallying to ensure black men and women participate in several new HIV vaccine trials now under way. BCA just won a \$20,000 grant to raise HIV vaccine awareness in the African American community and a town-hall meeting is planned for later this spring.

"The take home message has to be that HIV is so devastating that the only way to confront this is either prevent it and or develop therapeutic vaccines. Given that, African Americans need to participate in every phase of the clinical trials," said Robertson.

The new push to promote participation in vaccine trials comes after the failure last year of the VaxGen study to produce a viable HIV vaccine and controversy within the African American community over false reports the vaccine worked in blacks.

While Robertson said he has yet to see any lasting negative effects from the VaxGen study, he did say that "African Americans need to be particularly informed so someone doesn't manipulate stats in order to cause this controversy."

According to national surveys of African Americans, 48 percent believe that an HIV vaccine already exists but is being kept secret by the U.S. government; 77 percent wrongly believe and/or are not sure whether HIV vaccines being tested today cause HIV in trial volunteers; and 61 percent believe that a "preventive HIV vaccine" would benefit both infected and non-infected.

The message African Americans need to hear most of all, said Robertson, is that "you can't get



LYRIC's Renol Ratchford

HIV from participating in the clinical trials."

Jonathan Fuchs, the city's director of vaccine studies, said all such trials need to draw from the diversity of San Francisco.

"It is critical for there to be diverse populations in all of our vaccine studies. It is something we are very committed to," he said.

As for the VaxGen trial, Fuchs said the flap over whether it worked in blacks did have one benefit: it raised awareness of the importance for people of color to get involved in trials.

"It has given us an entree to working closely with the African American community to talk about the importance of clinical research and especially HIV research," said Fuchs.

Developing an HIV vaccine is critical to the African American community, which is trying to confront a nationwide shift of HIV infections from white gay and bi men to younger gay men of color. In a letter sent March 8 to local health officials, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention officials note that in a survey of young men who have sex with men (aged 15 to 22 years) conducted in seven metropolitan areas between 1994 and 1998, 7 percent had already acquired HIV infection and 11 percent had acquired hepatitis B virus infection.

Among young black MSM, the officials noted that 16 percent were already infected with HIV and 93 percent were unaware of their infection. Those who were unaware of their infection were more likely to have had unprotected anal sex, states the letter.

Just as Mayor Gavin Newsom is redirecting city department heads' attention to predominately black neighborhoods in the Bayview and Hunters Point, Robertson said city health officials need to turn their attention there as well. Robertson, a member of the city's HIV Prevention Planning Council, has been pushing the issue on the council's community liaison committee.

"I intend to raise those questions. Why haven't African American men been studied? We need to go to Sunnydale, Lakeview, and Potrero Hill," he said. "They aren't on the radar screen but we need to study those neighborhoods."

The lack of research specifically focused on black men is all the more puzzling since Office of AIDS deputy director Jimmy Loyce is himself black and helped found BCA. Robertson, who said he intends to ask Loyce about his office's research priorities, said he doesn't know the answer for the

lack in research.

"It is not like someone has a malicious intent. You need someone there to ask those questions," said Robertson. "What I am speculating is that there are so many competing priorities for a limited funding pie we have."

During a Black HIV/AIDS Awareness Day forum held in early February, Renol Ratchford asked Loyce and other city health officials present about the lack of solid research on young men of color.

"All the data is geared toward the East Coast. It is not specific about what is going on around San Francisco," said Ratchford, coordinator of the Kickin' It program for young men of color at the Lander Youth Recreation and Information Center. "If you look at the city's recent HIV prevention plan, it talks about youth but it doesn't get into the specifics of young MSM African Americans."

Speaking at the forum, Loyce said that early on in the HIV epidemic in San Francisco, the assumption in the African American community was HIV was a white gay man's disease.

"Part of that assumption was there are no black gay men in San Francisco," said Loyce, who took part in the early discussions of creating the BCA in 1985. "We did not believe 20 years ago we would still be talking about the black community's less than stellar responses to HIV and AIDS."

One reason cited for the lack in studies on gay black men is a lack in black researchers, offered Grant Colfax, the AIDS office's director of HIV prevention studies, at the forum.

"When I go to the CDC I am interacting mostly with other white men. We are not going to get there all the way until we have more black researchers doing the work," said Colfax, who added mentor programs for young black scientists are needed.

The next meeting on the gay black men's health agenda will be held on March 18. Anyone interested in attending should call Morrow-Hall at (415) 437-4696. ▽

The city is currently enrolling participants into five different HIV vaccine trials. For all the trials, the city needs HIV-negative men and women between the ages of 18 to 50.



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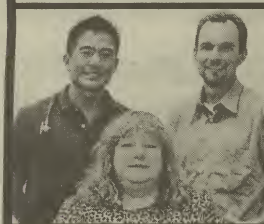
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Group offers housing help to PWAs

by Matthew S. Bajko

It is a simple request. Nikki Duong wants to be able to cook Vietnamese food for herself in her own kitchen.

Yet for Duong, who is transgender, HIV-positive, and confined to a wheelchair, it is not so easy. Most available apartments are not handicap accessible. And of those that are, her application is refused due to insufficient income.

"I have cried a lot just looking for a place for me to live," said Duong, 34, with tears in her eyes as she recounted her months-long search to find a permanent place to stay. "I have gone to so many places. They have turned me down. It is very emotional; I cry every time."

Undeterred, she continues her search to find housing. Because Duong said, "I want to live independently and cook for myself. And I want to go to bed in a my own place instead of a hotel, instead of the street where I have been for so long and I am tired of it."

It is a problem facing many San Francisco residents living with AIDS, a lack of stable housing. The impact of worrying



Nikki Duong and Brian Basinger

about where to live can be detrimental not only emotionally but physically for someone fighting for their life.

To help, a new agency has formed to assist people living with AIDS looking for permanent housing. Called the AIDS Housing Alliance, its mission is simple.

"I am just trying to get people with AIDS into stable housing," said founder Brian Basinger, who is himself HIV-positive and has firsthand experience of the difficulty in finding a landlord willing

to lease to PWAs.

His former landlord was relentless, he said, in trying to evict him out of his apartment.

"It never stopped," he said. "I thought, if that is happening to me then I am not the only one."

In December, after finding a landlord who would accept his Section 8 voucher, Basinger began laying the groundwork to launch the alliance. The nonprofit aims to connect PWAs with available units or rooms for rent.

"What the AIDS Housing Alliance wants to do is work with landlords who want to work with us," explained Basinger.

Since the alliance began keeping a list of available units and rooms for rent last month, Basinger said he already has been contacted by landlords with available units in San Francisco, Oakland, and Richmond who are amenable to accepting the Section 8 vouchers. He also has about 20 roommate-wanted listings.

"It just shows me the potential for what we can accomplish here. This is a problem that is going on in communities across the nation," he said.

Already about 60 people have found their way to the alliance seeking help in securing housing.

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Anti-demolition bill vetoed; up to Dufty to override

by Zak Szymanski

As expected, Mayor Gavin Newsom vetoed Supervisor Chris Daly's anti-demolition legislation on Friday, March 5, a move that some say squashed all hopes for current residents of the Trinity Plaza apartments, and others say was necessary to create new units of housing and prevent urban blight.

Daly's legislation was prompted by the proposed demolition of Trinity Plaza, a building at 8th and Market streets with 377 units of rent-controlled housing. Developer Angelo Sangiacomo plans to replace the building with four towers of 1,410 units, although most of those will be at market rate. The legislation sought to permanently prohibit the demolition of larger habitable buildings, which critics said went too far in an effort to address a much more specific situation.

"The stated intent of this legislation is primarily to protect the current tenants of Trinity Plaza... I appreciate this intent and support it fully," said Newsom in his veto letter to the Board of Supervisors. "However, I do not believe this legislation is the proper means to achieve this."

Newsom echoed the recent sentiments of Supervisor Bevan Dufty, who changed his original "yes" vote for the legislation to a "no" vote when he became satisfied that Sangiacomo had added protections for existing tenants.

Such protections include lifetime leases equivalent to rent control, although the city attorney's office has said the leases would not withstand a legal challenge. Unless

he can be persuaded otherwise, Dufty's stance will make the board one vote shy of overriding Newsom's veto.

"I'm extremely disappointed that this important legislation that saves close to 400 people from being evicted was vetoed," said Tommy Avicelli Mecca of the Housing Rights Committee, which has been working with the Trinity Plaza tenants, a diverse mix of queer, immigrant, and multiracial residents.

"I don't see the city coming up with a plan to save these people. All I hear about are so-called lifetime leases, which are dubious according to our city attorney's office. So we now need to call upon Bevan Dufty to do the right thing and join the seven members of the board in overriding this veto."

Dufty was out of town this week and could not be reached for comment on whether his position was flexible. Daly's office said the veto override vote is scheduled for March 30.

A letter Newsom sent to the residents of Trinity Plaza stated that he had "struggled" with his decision but that he pledged to "do everything within my power to protect your community." He said that he has instructed his office and the developer that all future approvals for the project will be conditional upon ensuring existing tenants' safeguards.

He made a similar pledge to the Board of Supervisors.

"Under the current Trinity Plaza proposal, the tenants will not be displaced or evicted, will keep their community intact, and will only be relocated once their new and substantially improved

housing units are complete," said Newsom's veto letter, which noted that the legislation's broad impact would hinder future projects that create more units of housing, and could "lead to blighted buildings and unsafe living conditions" where deteriorating homes could no longer legally be torn down and replaced.

But Sangiacomo's promise to house existing tenants immediately before all the towers are complete is not welcome news to Trinity Plaza resident Sally Ramon, a 64-year-old transgender woman, Native American, and U.S. Army veteran.

"We don't want to live in a construction site for 15 years, while those towers are being built," said Ramon at a tenant vigil that took place outside City Hall on Thursday, March 4. "Our mental and emotional health is at a time to be considered, as well as our close-knit community."

In addition to preserving the quality of life for Trinity Plaza tenants, Avicelli Mecca said that Daly's legislation is necessary to stop greedy landlords from opportunistically destroying their large buildings in order to replace their apartments with more market rate units.

"Something needs to be in place to guarantee that other big landlords won't start taking these bigger buildings off the market, so we don't lose 300-400 rent controlled apartments at a time," Avicelli Mecca told the Bay Area Reporter last week.

As for the future of Trinity Plaza tenants, he said, "We're still waiting for a plan that guarantees protections. So far, we haven't seen it." ▼

NATIONAL NEWS

Wedding bells ring in Oregon and New Jersey

by Bob Roehr

Add Portland, Oregon and Asbury Park, New Jersey to the list of places where gay folks can get married, at least for now. Multnomah County began issuing marriage licenses to same-sex couples on March 3, while the small New Jersey shore town did so on March 5, with the first weddings taking place on March 8 after the required 72-hour waiting period.

Portland residents Mary Li, 40, and Rebecca Kennedy, 42, were the first couple married in a ceremony performed by retired Oregon Supreme Court Justice Betty Roberts. By week's end more than 1,200 couples had followed their lead.

The gay rights group Basic Rights Oregon had approached four of the five county commissioners in January on the issue. When County Attorney Agnes Sowle issued a legal opinion that refusal to grant a license was a violation of the state Constitution's equal protection clause, Chairwoman Diane Linn ordered an administration change to allow the issuing of licenses to same-sex couples.

The Oregon Constitution, written in 1857, states: "No law shall be passed granting to any citizen or class of citizens privileges, or immunities, which, upon the same terms, shall not equally belong to all citizens." The court used that clause to affirm the granting of health insurance and other benefits to the same-sex partners of state employees in a 1998 ruling.

Opponents have charged that the changes should have been made at an open public meeting and the four commissioners are in violation of the law. Supporters ar-

gued that no law was changed and therefore no meeting was required; Linn acted on her own. The appearance of secrecy has drawn criticism from some corners.

The right wing Defense of Marriage Coalition filed a lawsuit on March 5 seeking an injunction to block the issuance of licenses.

But on March 8, Judge Dale Koch denied a temporary restraining order saying that it was not clear that plaintiffs would prevail on their contention that the move was in violation of the open meetings law. He will hear arguments on a preliminary injunction on March 12.

The Christian Coalition has begun organizing a recall petition for at least two of the commissioners and it is seeking to put the issue of marriage on the statewide ballot in November.

Commissioner Lonnie Roberts, who was excluded from the discussions, is proposing an amendment to the county charter to define marriage as only between a man and a woman. He hopes to get it on the May 18 ballot.

A poll of 400 voters, commissioned by the state's leading newspaper, the *Oregonian*, and conducted on March 4, showed patterns of opposition to gay marriage that are slightly more moderate than national numbers and with similar divisions along the lines of age, gender, and party affiliation.

Overall, 54 percent do not think that same-sex marriage should be legal, but 61 percent support either marriage or civil unions. Some 53 percent of voters younger than 35 supported the idea of gay marriage, while only 25 percent of those older than 55 did so.

The *Oregonian* said in a March 7 editorial, "On television and from a distance, these unions may

look political. Up close, however, they seemed deeply personal and heartfelt. ...It's appropriate for Oregonians to reflect and consider the unabashed joy among the couples who've sought to marry."

"Like it or not, these licenses force everyone in Oregon to confront their beliefs and examine government's proper role in marriage. Last week brought it home and made it real. These are not strangers in San Francisco anymore. These are friends, coworkers, and neighbors."

In Asbury Park, New Jersey, Ric Vest and Louis Navarette were the first of a handful of gay couples to wed on March 8. Deputy Mayor James Bruno presided over the ceremony and City Council member John Loffredo acted as a witness.

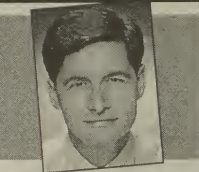
However, New Jersey Attorney General Peter Harvey ordered a halt to the licenses Tuesday, and also warned officials that those issued to same-sex couples are invalid, the Associated Press reported. Harvey also threatened legal action against the city officials.

The town clerk believes that state law does not specifically preclude issuing the licenses while the U.S. and New Jersey constitutions guarantee equal protection under the law. Both the New Jersey attorney general and Lambda Legal disagree with that interpretation of the state law. Two years ago Lambda sued for full marriage rights. The case is on appeal. ▼

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HERTH
REAL ESTATE

Lawsuit filed for marriage in Seattle

by Bob Roehr

Lambda Legal and the Northwest Women's Law Center filed a lawsuit in Seattle Monday, March 8 seeking full marriage rights under the Washington state Constitution. The suit was filed after six gay and lesbian couples requested and were denied marriage licenses at the King County Administrative Building.

"They and their families are coming down to King County today to say, 'I want the same thing as everyone else and there is no good reason not to give it to me,'" law center Executive Director Lisa Stone said at a news conference.

She was joined by King County Executive Director Ron Sims who added, "We should never tell people who love each other, who have entered into a relationship soberly, people who will function for the rest of their lives as one, who will raise children - we should never deny those individuals the right to be married." He said he would make his feelings known during the trial.

Also on Monday, the mayor of Seattle, Greg Nickels, said the city

would extend all the rights to gay city employees that heterosexual couples enjoy.

Elsewhere, Massachusetts is edgily awaiting the next joint session of its Legislature meeting as a constitutional convention, on March 11. Gay marriage has exploded as an issue in San Francisco and across the nation in the weeks since lawmakers last met.

Local politics in the Bay State have changed as well. State Representative Cheryl Rivera came out as a lesbian after the last session, and openly gay Democrat Angus McQuilken lost a March 2 special election to fill the state Senate seat that became vacant when Cheryl Jacques resigned to move to Washington, D.C. to head up the Human Rights Campaign.

McQuilken's loss by about 300 votes (out of 37,500 cast), in a district that is ordinarily Republican and where Republican Governor Mitt Romney campaigned heavily for the Republican candidate, is being spun both ways by supporters and opponents of amending the state Constitution.

Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry's endorsement of the amendment to the Massachusetts

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FUZEON

THE FIRST FUSION INHIBITOR
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What: Panel Discussion Featuring Dr. Jay Lalezari, Eileen Glutzer, RN and Patients Experienced with Fuzeon

Where: San Francisco LGBT Community Center
1800 Market Street
Ceremonial Room 400
San Francisco, CA
Dinner will be provided to all attendees

When: Tuesday, March 16, 2004
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Who: Designed for patients, community treatment advocates and case managers

Attendees will be able to learn more about how and when this drug is being used by patients and medical providers. The panelists will answer any questions you may have about this new drug.

Space is limited. To register for this free dinner and panel discussion please contact Jennifer Roe. You can call her toll free at 1-888-839-9657, fax toll free to 866-839-4816 or send an e-mail to: JLRoe@Behzat.com

The registration deadline is Thursday, March 11, 2004. This is presented for community information purposes. For more information on A&PI Wellness Center, log on to <http://www.apowellness.org>

The word on HIV:



INDICATION: REYATAZ™ (atazanavir sulfate) is a prescription medicine used in combination with other medicines to treat people who are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Reyataz has been studied in 48-week trials in patients who have never taken anti-HIV medicines and in 24-week trials in patients who have taken anti-HIV medicines before.

Reyataz does not cure HIV or prevent passing HIV to others.

IMPORTANT SAFETY INFORMATION: Do not take Reyataz if you are taking the following medicines: ergot medicines, Versed®, Halcion®, Orap®, Propulsid®, Camptosar®, Vascor®, Crixivan®, Mevacor®, Zocor®, rifampin, St. John's wort, AcipHex®, Nexium®, Prevacid®, Prilosec® or Protonix®. Do not use Viagra® while you are taking Reyataz without first speaking with your healthcare provider.


This list of medicines is not complete. Discuss all prescription, non-prescription and herbal products you are taking or plan to take with your healthcare provider.

Tell your healthcare provider right away if you have any side effects or conditions, including the following:

- **A change in the way your heart beats** may occur and could be symptoms of a heart problem.
- **Diabetes and high blood sugar** may occur in patients taking protease inhibitor medicines like Reyataz.
- **If you have liver disease**, including hepatitis B or C, your liver disease may get worse when you take anti-HIV medicines like Reyataz.
- **Yellowing of the skin and/or eyes** may

occur due to increases in bilirubin levels in the blood (bilirubin is made by the liver).

- **Some patients with hemophilia** have increased bleeding problems with protease inhibitor medicines like Reyataz.
- **A severe buildup of lactic acid in the blood (lactic acidosis syndrome)**, which can cause death, has been reported in patients taking Reyataz with other anti-HIV medicines called nucleoside analogs.
- **Changes in body fat** have been seen in some patients taking anti-HIV medicines. The cause and long-term effects are not known at this time.
- **Other common side effects** of Reyataz taken with other anti-HIV medicines include: nausea, headache, rash, stomach pain, vomiting, diarrhea, numbness, tingling or burning in hands or feet, and depression.



Ask your doctor how REYATAZ can help you
fight HIV your way.

Individual results may vary.

Once Daily REYATAZ is a protease inhibitor (PI) that is taken in HIV combination therapy.

You and your doctor can **fight HIV your way.**

- ◆ Can help raise your T-cells
- ◆ Can help lower your viral load to undetectable
- ◆ Low chance of diarrhea (shown in clinical trials)*
- ◆ Only 2 pills taken once-a-day (with a snack or meal)

* REYATAZ in combination therapy had a 6-8% rate of moderate-to-severe diarrhea.

Please see important information about REYATAZ on the next page.



REYATAZTM
(atazanavir sulfate) 200 mg capsules

ONLY

PATIENT INFORMATION

REYATAZ™ (RAY-ah-taz)
(generic name = atazanavir sulfate)
Capsules

ALERT: Find out about medicines that should NOT be taken with REYATAZ (atazanavir sulfate). Read the section "What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?"

Read the Patient Information that comes with REYATAZ before you start using it and each time you get a refill. There may be new information. This leaflet provides a summary about REYATAZ and does not include everything there is to know about your medicine. This information does not take the place of talking with your healthcare provider about your medical condition or treatment.

What Is REYATAZ?

REYATAZ is a prescription medicine used with other anti-HIV medicines to treat people who are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). HIV is the virus that causes acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). REYATAZ is a type of anti-HIV medicine called a protease inhibitor. HIV infection destroys CD4 (T) cells, which are important to the immune system. The immune system helps fight infection. After a large number of T cells are destroyed, AIDS develops. REYATAZ helps to block HIV protease, an enzyme that is needed for the HIV virus to multiply. REYATAZ may lower the amount of HIV in your blood, help your body keep its supply of CD4 (T) cells, and reduce the risk of death and illness associated with HIV.

Does REYATAZ cure HIV or AIDS?

REYATAZ does not cure HIV infection or AIDS. At present there is no cure for HIV infection. People taking REYATAZ may still get opportunistic infections or other conditions that happen with HIV infection. Opportunistic infections are infections that develop because the immune system is weak. Some of these conditions are pneumonia, herpes virus infections, and *Mycobacterium avium* complex (MAC) infections. It is very important that you see your healthcare provider regularly while taking REYATAZ.

REYATAZ does not lower your chance of passing HIV to other people through sexual contact, sharing needles, or being exposed to your blood. For your health and the health of others, it is important to always practice safer sex by using a latex or polyurethane condom or other barrier to lower the chance of sexual contact with semen, vaginal secretions, or blood. Never use or share dirty needles.

Who should not take REYATAZ?**Do not take REYATAZ if you:**

- are taking certain medicines. (See "What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?") Serious life-threatening side effects or death may happen. Before you take REYATAZ, tell your healthcare provider about all medicines you are taking or planning to take. These include other prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements.
- are allergic to REYATAZ or to any of its ingredients. The active ingredient is atazanavir sulfate. See the end of this leaflet for a complete list of ingredients in REYATAZ. Tell your healthcare provider if you think you have had an allergic reaction to any of these ingredients.

What should I tell my healthcare provider before I take REYATAZ?**Tell your healthcare provider:**

- If you are pregnant or planning to become pregnant. It is not known if REYATAZ can harm your unborn baby. Pregnant women have experienced serious side effects when taking REYATAZ with other HIV medicines called nucleoside analogues. You and your healthcare provider will need to decide if REYATAZ is right for you. If you use REYATAZ while you are pregnant, talk to your healthcare provider about the Antiretroviral Pregnancy Registry.
- If you are breast-feeding. You should not breast-feed if you are HIV-positive because of the chance of passing HIV to your baby. Also, it is not known if REYATAZ can pass into your breast milk and if it can harm your baby. If you are a woman who has or will have a baby, talk with your healthcare provider about the best way to feed your baby.
- If you have liver problems or are infected with the hepatitis B or C virus. See "What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?"
- If you have diabetes. See "What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?"
- If you have hemophilia. See "What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?"
- About all the medicines you take including prescription and nonprescription medicines, vitamins, and herbal supplements. Keep a list of your medicines with you to show your healthcare provider. For more information, see "What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?" and "Who should not take REYATAZ?" Some medicines can cause serious side effects if you also take REYATAZ.

How should I take REYATAZ?

- Take REYATAZ once every day exactly as instructed by your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider will prescribe the amount of REYATAZ that is right for you. Your dose will depend on your liver function and on the other anti-HIV medicines that you are taking. REYATAZ is always used with other anti-HIV medicines. If you are taking REYATAZ and Sustiva® (efavirenz), you should also be taking Norvir® (ritonavir).

- Always take REYATAZ (atazanavir sulfate) with food (a meal or snack) to help it work better. Swallow the capsules whole. Do not open the capsules. Try to take REYATAZ at the same time each day.
- If you are taking antacids or Videx® (didanosine) Chewable/Dispersible Buffered Tablets, take REYATAZ 2 hours before or 1 hour after these medicines.
- Do not change your dose or stop taking REYATAZ without first talking with your healthcare provider. It is important to stay under a healthcare provider's care while taking REYATAZ.
- When your supply of REYATAZ starts to run low, get more from your healthcare provider or pharmacy. It is important not to run out of REYATAZ. The amount of HIV in your blood may increase if the medicine is stopped for even a short time.
- If you miss a dose of REYATAZ, take it as soon as possible and then take your next scheduled dose at its regular time. If, however, it is within 6 hours of your next dose, do not take the missed dose. Wait and take the next dose at the regular time. Do not double the next dose. It is important that you do not miss any doses of REYATAZ or your other anti-HIV medicines.
- If you take more than the prescribed dose of REYATAZ, call your healthcare provider or poison control center right away.

Can children take REYATAZ?

REYATAZ has not been fully studied in children under 16 years of age. REYATAZ is not recommended for use in babies under the age of 3 months.

What are the possible side effects of REYATAZ?

The following list of side effects is not complete. Report any new or continuing symptoms to your healthcare provider. If you have questions about side effects, ask your healthcare provider. Your healthcare provider may be able to help you manage these side effects.

REYATAZ can cause the following side effects:

- yellowing of the skin or eyes. These effects may be due to increases in bilirubin levels in the blood (bilirubin is made by the liver). Call your healthcare provider if your skin or the white part of your eyes turn yellow. Although these effects may not be damaging to your liver, skin, or eyes, it is important to tell your healthcare provider promptly if they occur.
- a change in the way your heart beats (heart rhythm change). Call your healthcare provider right away if you get dizzy or lightheaded. These could be symptoms of a heart problem.
- diabetes and high blood sugar (hyperglycemia) sometimes happen in patients taking protease inhibitor medicines like REYATAZ. Some patients had diabetes before taking protease inhibitors while others did not. Some patients may need changes in their diabetes medicine.
- If you have liver disease including hepatitis B or C, your liver disease may get worse when you take anti-HIV medicines like REYATAZ.
- some patients with hemophilia have increased bleeding problems with protease inhibitors like REYATAZ.
- a serious condition called lactic acidosis syndrome (a severe buildup of an acid in the blood that sometimes causes death). Some people who have taken REYATAZ with anti-HIV medicines called nucleoside analogues have developed lactic acidosis syndrome. Lactic acidosis syndrome has happened more in people who are female or obese (very overweight). Lactic acidosis syndrome is a medical emergency and must be treated in the hospital. Call your healthcare provider right away and do not continue to take REYATAZ and your other anti-HIV medicines unless instructed to by your healthcare provider if you get any of the following signs of lactic acidosis syndrome:
 - You have persistent nausea, vomiting, or unusual or unexpected stomach discomfort,
 - You feel very weak and tired,
 - You have trouble breathing,
 - You have weakness, especially in your arms and legs.
- changes in body fat. These changes may include an increased amount of fat in the upper back and neck ("buffalo hump"), breast, and around the trunk. Loss of fat from the legs, arms, and face may also happen. The cause and long-term health effects of these conditions are not known at this time.

Other common side effects of REYATAZ taken with other anti-HIV medicines include nausea; headache; rash; stomach pain; vomiting; diarrhea; depression; fever; increased cough; dizziness; trouble sleeping; pain; tiredness; back pain; numbness, tingling, or burning of hands or feet; and joint pain.

What important information should I know about taking REYATAZ with other medicines?

Do not take REYATAZ if you take the following medicines (not all brands may be listed; tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take). REYATAZ may cause serious, life-threatening side effects or death when used with these medicines.

- Ergot medicines: dihydroergotamine, ergonovine, ergotamine, and methylergonovine such as Cafergot®, Migranal®, D.H.E. 45®, ergotrate maleate, Methergine®, and others (used for migraine headaches).
- Halcion® (triazolam, used for insomnia).
- Versed® (midazolam, used for sedation).
- Orap® (pimozide, used for Tourette's disorder).
- Propulsid® (cisapride, used for certain stomach problems).

Do not take the following medicines with REYATAZ because of possible serious side effects:

- Camptosar® (irinotecan, used for cancer).
- Vasacor® (bepridil, used for high blood pressure).
- Crixivan® (indinavir, used for HIV infection). Both REYATAZ and Crixivan sometimes cause increased levels of bilirubin in the blood.
- Cholesterol-lowering medicines Mevacor® (lovastatin) or Zocor® (simvastatin).

Do not take the following medicines with REYATAZ (atazanavir sulfate) because they may lower the amount of REYATAZ in your blood. This may lead to an increased HIV viral load. Resistance to REYATAZ or cross-resistance to other HIV medicines may develop:

- Rifampin (also known as Rimactane®, Rifadin®, Rifater®, or Rifamate®, used for tuberculosis).
- St. John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum*), an herbal product sold as a dietary supplement, or products containing St. John's wort.
- "Proton-pump inhibitors" used for indigestion, heartburn, or ulcers such as Aciphex® (rabeprazole), Nexium® (esomeprazole), Prevacid® (lansoprazole), Prilosec® (omeprazole), or Protonix® (pantoprazole).

The following medicines may require your healthcare provider to monitor your therapy more closely:

- Viagra® (sildenafil). REYATAZ may increase the chances of serious side effects that can happen with Viagra. Do not use Viagra while you are taking REYATAZ (atazanavir sulfate), unless your healthcare provider tells you it is okay.
- Lipitor® (atorvastatin). There is an increased chance of serious side effects if you take REYATAZ with this cholesterol-lowering medicine.
- Medicines for abnormal heart rhythm: Cordarone® (amiodarone), lidocaine, quinidine (also known as Cardioquin®, Quinidex®, and others).
- Coumadin® (warfarin).
- Tricyclic antidepressants such as Elavil® (amitriptyline), Norpramin® (desipramine), Sinequan® (doxepin), Surmontil® (trimipramine), Tofranil® (imipramine), or Vivactil® (protriptyline).
- Medicines to prevent organ transplant rejection: Sandimmune® or Neoral® (cyclosporine), Rapamune® (sirolimus), or Prograf® (tacrolimus).

The following medicines may require a change in the dose or dose schedule of either REYATAZ or the other medicine:

- Sustiva® (efavirenz).
- Fortovase®, Invirase® (saquinavir).
- Norvir® (ritonavir).
- Mycobutin® (rifabutin).
- Calcium channel blockers such as Cardizem® or Tiazac® (diltiazem), Covera-HS® or Isonipin SR® (verapamil) and others.
- Biaxin® (clarithromycin).
- oral contraceptives ("the pill").
- Videx® (didanosine) or antacids.
- Medicines for indigestion, heartburn, or ulcers such as Axid® (nizatidine), Pepcid AC® (famotidine), Tagamet® (cimetidine), or Zantac® (ranitidine).

Remember:

1. Know all the medicines you take.
2. Tell your healthcare provider about all the medicines you take.
3. Do not start a new medicine without talking to your healthcare provider.

How should I store REYATAZ?

- Store REYATAZ Capsules at room temperature, 59° to 86° F (15° to 30° C). Do not store this medicine in a damp place such as a bathroom medicine cabinet or near the kitchen sink.
- Keep your medicine in a tightly closed container.
- Throw away REYATAZ when it is outdated or no longer needed by flushing it down the toilet or pouring it down the sink.

General Information about REYATAZ

This medicine was prescribed for your particular condition. Do not use REYATAZ for another condition. Do not give REYATAZ to other people, even if they have the same symptoms you have. It may harm them. Keep REYATAZ and all medicines out of the reach of children and pets.

This summary does not include everything there is to know about REYATAZ. Medicines are sometimes prescribed for conditions that are not mentioned in patient information leaflets. Remember, no written summary can replace careful discussion with your healthcare provider. If you would like more information, talk with your healthcare provider or you can call 1-800-426-7644.

What are the ingredients in REYATAZ?**Active ingredient:** atazanavir sulfate

Inactive ingredients: Crospovidone, lactose monohydrate (milk sugar), magnesium stearate, gelatin, FD&C Blue #2, and titanium dioxide.

* Videx® is a registered trademark of Bristol-Myers Squibb Company. Coumadin® and Sustiva® are registered trademarks of Bristol-Myers Squibb Pharma Company. Other brands listed are the trademarks of their respective owners and are not trademarks of Bristol-Myers Squibb Company.

This Patient Information Leaflet has been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

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ALRP announces staffing, service cuts

by Matthew S. Bajko

After losing all of its 2004 Ryan White CARE Act funding, the AIDS Legal Referral Panel decided Tuesday night to eliminate its legal services for immigrants program and is reducing its staff by 40 percent, effective May 31.

The service and staffing reductions made March 9 are the direct result of the federal government's 12 percent cut in the 2004 Title I Ryan White CARE Act funds for San Francisco, announced on March 1. ALRP is losing \$265,000 in federal funding due to the cuts.

"These funding cuts are far deeper than anyone in the San Francisco AIDS community ever expected," said Bill Hirsh, ALRP's executive director. "While our agency is restructuring as a result of the CARE funding cuts, ALRP remains committed to providing our free and low cost legal services to people living with HIV/AIDS in the San Francisco Bay Area."

To try to soften the blow of the funding cuts, the agency is launching the "ALRP We Still CARE Campaign," a fundraising effort aimed at replacing the lost CARE funding as soon as possible. The campaign, which will be conducted with the help of ALRP's community partners, has already raised pledges of more than \$100,000.

"We hope to bring back roughly half of the CARE dollars that were lost. It is a tough time to raise money but I have been encouraged by the response we have seen thus far," said Hirsh, who added he has been meeting with potential partners "pretty much every day."

ALRP is the first legal services organization specifically for people with HIV/AIDS in the nation, and has handled more than 40,000 legal matters for clients since its inception in 1983. Last year alone, ALRP helped over 1,500 people with HIV/AIDS and successfully leveraged nearly \$1 million in donated legal services.

Kathleen Morris, ALRP board

co-chair, said, "Now, more than ever, ALRP will be relying on our panel of volunteer attorneys, and our individual and institutional donors, as we navigate our way through the difficult months ahead."

Depending on the success of the campaign, the agency will re-examine in May its decision to lay off staff and curtail services. The agency is warning clients, however, that for the remainder of the year its ability to handle new cases will be severely limited.

ALRP client services, which provides wills, powers of attorney, advanced healthcare directives, and other legal documents for clients with HIV/AIDS, will be reduced by 50 percent or approximately 500 clients. The ALRP Housing Advocacy Project, which handles legal matters for more than 500 clients (over one-third of ALRP's caseload), will experience a 50 percent reduction in service capacity. And the ALRP Immigrant HIV Assistance Project, fully

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ADAP cap

◀ page 1

activists are seeking an additional \$10 million to fully fund the program and want to increase its budget from \$207 to \$232 million.

If the governor does not use ADAP's rebate money for the general fund, AIDS activists say there should be sufficient rebate revenue in fiscal year 2004-2005 to fully fund the program. They met with the governor's staff Monday to discuss the program's funding.

"We understand California's budget deficit and the need for across the board cuts, but it is unacceptable for the state to cut drugs that will keep people alive," said Fred Dillon, policy and communications director for the San Francisco AIDS Foundation. "Without adequate funding for this program, people are going to die. We hope Governor Schwarzenegger and the Legislature come up with a better solution to solving this problem without restricting access to life-saving programs."

The move to save the ADAP program comes as numerous San Francisco agencies that provide services to people with HIV and AIDS brace for cuts in staffing and services due to the loss of \$4 mil-

lion in federal funding. Tuesday night members of the HIV Health Services Planning Council met to discuss the city's 12 percent cut in Ryan White CARE Act Title I funding.

The AIDS office is still finalizing a list of which agencies will lose funding and how much their contracts cost. "We still don't have that information at that level," CARE Council co-chair Lara Sallee told the council at the meeting. "Hopefully we will have this information by next week."

Council members did receive a list of which service categories will be cut and how much funding is earmarked for each category. For example, the council had hoped to spend more than \$712,000 for outpatient substance abuse, nearly \$400,000 on legal and immigration assistance, and \$875,000 on integrated case management. Other services being defunded include dental care, transportation, and adult day health care.

"It is very difficult to keep something alive once you eliminate it," said council member Jesus Guillen, a longtime survivor of HIV. A member of the council's community outreach committee, Guillen suggested holding an arts benefit to raise money for AIDS services.

The council's co-chairs plan to

meet with Joyce Newstat, Mayor Gavin Newsom's policy chief, later today (Thursday, March 11) and have requested a meeting with Board of Supervisors President Matt Gonzalez. They intend to ask the city to backfill the cuts with \$4 million in general fund money and request the Department of Public Health not cut its budget for substance abuse, mental health, and outreach.

"We will be asking them to preserve existing city funded services," said Sallee.

The council would also like to see Newsom hold a town hall meeting with the community, CARE Council members, health officials, and city supervisors to discuss the cuts in AIDS services. Other actions the council would like to see taken is the mayors of the state's cities facing cuts in AIDS funding lobby both the governor and state legislators.

"HIV is an issue right now. We have to make it part of the political discussion," said Guillen.

And just as ADAP supporters rallied in Sacramento on Monday, clients impacted by the defunding of Ryan White CARE Act services should also mobilize, said Sallee.

"I do think clients need to be letting their elected officials know about the impact on their services," she said. ▼

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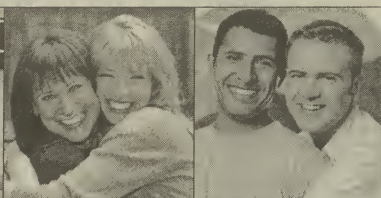
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**Marty Courson
and James Oswald Jr.**

Marty Kevin Courson and James Brian Oswald Jr. were married at San Francisco City Hall on March 2. Their vows, officiated by Supervisor Bevan Dufty, were made in the presence of family and friends during the eighth year of their relationship. They wish to thank their heroes, Mayor Gavin Newsom and Supervisor Dufty, for their

courage and kindness and for making this day both special and possible.

Mr. Oswald is the proprietor of Oswald Media Communications, a public relations firm specializing in broadcast media relations. Mr. Courson is a bankruptcy attorney and the author of "Baehr v. Lewin: Hawaii Takes a Tentative Step To Legalize Same-Sex Marriage," 24 Golden Gate University Law Review 41 (1994), which discussed the first state high court case to recognize constitutionally protected rights for gay men and lesbians to marry.



Paul Hill and Bradley Akin

Alexandra Josephine Akin, age 13, is proud to announce the marriage of her two dads, Paul Hill, 50, and Bradley Akin, 43, of San Francisco. Mr. Hill and Mr. Akin were married in San Francisco City Hall at 9:15 a.m. on Friday, February 13, after an eight-year engagement. Mr. Akin, a Bay Area/Sacramento native son, is a project design manager at Dolby Laboratories. Mr. Hill, a late 1970s transplant from Washington, D.C., is a visual effects producer at Industrial Light + Magic.

The ceremony was witnessed by close friends Tom Metz and newlyweds Cal Domingue and Allan Galanter. The entire family is thrilled to be a part of this historic event, and they recommend the experience to everyone. Many thanks to Mayor Gavin Newsom, Assessor-Recorder Mabel Teng, County Clerk Nancy Alfaro, and everyone at City Hall and everywhere who made it possible. Reception and honeymoon plans are pending.

**Joseph Alfano III
and Frank Capley**

On Tuesday, February 17, Joseph C. Alfano III and Frank Edward Capley



were legally married in the majestic Rotunda of San Francisco's City Hall. The newlyweds live in the Castro District with their well-trained pit bull, Peanut. Mr. Alfano is a property consultant with Pacific Bay Investments, a boutique real estate brokerage, and is a member of the Association of Realtors. Mr. Capley is an elevator repairman and belongs to International Union of Elevator Construc-

tors, Local 8 in San Francisco.

Mr. Alfano has been active in progressive social and political organizations for 15 years, and he served as the first openly gay trustee for the College of Marin. Mr. Capley has been vocal on many issues as well, specifically advocating for same-sex marriage recognition. He campaigned against Proposition 22 four years ago.

Mr. Alfano and Mr. Capley met four years ago at the city's gay Pride event, and they have been inseparable ever since. They are planning a symbolic ring exchange ceremony involving family and friends this summer.

Both men are certain that their deep commitment to one another, witness to the unyielding power of love, and belief in true family values will guide them through any obstacle the uncharted future may present.

BIRTHS

Veronica Claire Kruschel (1 pound 12 ounces) and Zola Camille Kruschel (1 pound 13 ounces) were born three months early, on August 30, 2003 in Anchorage, Alaska. After receiving excellent care in the neonatal intensive care unit at Anchorage's Providence Hospital, the girls and their fathers, Gary Beuschel and John Kruse, flew home to San Francisco in November. Both girls are now healthy, weigh more than 12 pounds, and were the featured guests at the Valentine's Day wedding of Mr. Kruse and Mr. Beuschel. Mr. Beuschel's mother Norma Beuschel, and friend Chris Neal were witnesses to the ceremony, making the couple's 11-year relationship finally legal!



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PWA housing

◀ page 12

Many of those people, said Basinger, find they are locked out of the housing market for the same reason Duong is: their incomes are too low.

"Landlords are requiring up to three times the monthly rent in income in order for someone to qualify to get a unit. What this policy has effectively done is created an insurmountable barrier to any disabled person from accessing housing in San Francisco," said Basinger.

While several landlords have already begun to work with the alliance, Basinger said he thinks he will have the most success in matching people up with room

share situations.

"Shared living situations are a huge part of the San Francisco housing mix, especially for low-income people," he said. "We really need to rely on each other and be roommates."

As for Duong, with Basinger's help she will be moving in to a wheelchair accessible apartment by the middle of March. Located on Sixth and Folsom, it is not the most ideal housing.

But for now it will provide some of the comforts that come with having a home.

The alliance's hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Thursday. It is located at 427 South Van Ness Avenue in space donated by the Housing Rights Committee. For more information, call (415) 552-3242. ▼

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Lesbian killed

◀ page 1

held for Sacks in San Francisco on Monday, March 8. Pacheco plans to take Sacks's cremated remains back to Brazil for a funeral there. Sacks is survived by two sisters, three brothers, and her mother. Her father died in a car accident when she was 19 and one of her brothers died 15 years ago. Sacks remained close with her former partner, Margaret Dos Santos, and her ex-husband, Bruce Ponte.

Calls for probe

Pacheco, and others close to Sacks, are questioning whether police acted properly.

San Francisco Police said they first began following the suspect's Toyota minivan near Mariposa and Missouri streets after they recognized it as a possible stolen vehicle, but they stayed behind it, going with the flow of traffic. Near 7th and Hubbell streets, after officers confirmed the minivan was stolen, they hit their lights and siren and the driver sped up to between 40-50 miles per hour, police

said.

Police said the chase lasted for only about 30 seconds. The minivan ended up colliding with Sacks's Honda Civic at 15th and De Haro streets, a block from World's Gym, after the driver allegedly ran a stop sign. A passenger in the minivan ran from the scene. The driver, 32-year-old Quinn Radtke, suffered minor injuries.

Radtke faces charges of murder, vehicular manslaughter, and driving under the influence. Police spokeswoman Maria Oropeza told the B.A.R. that Radtke admitted to investigators that he shot up methamphetamine just before the crash. Police also said that Radtke already had a warrant out on him for a hit-and-run accident last year and was driving on a suspended license. He was scheduled to be arraigned on Monday, March 8, but it was postponed for two days pending a psychiatric evaluation.

A longtime friend of Sacks's, San Francisco Chronicle music critic Joel Selvin, is among those who are calling for a police investigation. He told the B.A.R. that he

is also calling for an investigation by the Board of Supervisors.

Selvin said he phoned the mayor's office at 7:30 a.m., the morning after the crash, to help "turn up the heat" on the investigation. He said he got a call back from Deputy Police Chief Greg Suhr who expressed concern but Selvin said that he doesn't trust the police to police itself.

"The police have their story, but I am going to pursue an independent investigation," he said.

Ponte, who formally divorced Sacks last year, echoed Selvin's concerns.

"I don't know all the facts, but any idiot could figure out that a high speed chase in a busy city doesn't make any sense," he told the B.A.R. "The police should protect us, not the insurance companies. It was just a stolen car."

San Francisco Police say that while the case is under investigation, it appears that officers were following pursuit policy. The policy calls for pursuits of nonviolent suspects to be terminated when the speed or traffic conditions jeopardize public safety. A few other departments, including San

Jose, take a more conservative approach and don't chase suspects wanted for nonviolent crimes.

Selvin first met Sacks shortly after she came to the United States 20 years ago. She worked for him as a housecleaner and later she helped care for his aging father and mother. Sacks also help care for Selvin's 13-year-old daughter. Selvin said that he considers Sacks a member of his family.

He fondly recalled her great love for her adopted country.

"She loved America," Selvin said. "To her it meant professional football and Dykes on Bikes."

Ponte said he's heard from a number of people for whom Sacks worked that tell a similar story to Selvin's. Ponte noted that one of Sacks's former clients offered to pay all the funeral expenses.

Ponte said that Sacks's death highlighted for him the importance of same-sex marriage rights. He noted that when he

heard about her death and arrived at the hospital, he was given preferential treatment simply because he said he was her husband. Ponte said that Sacks and Pacheco tried to get married during the recent rush on City Hall but the lines were too long and they couldn't take time away from work to wait in line. Ponte said that he's also concerned that Pacheco will have trouble returning to this country after she attends Sacks's funeral in Brazil.

Ponte added that Sacks's death has been very tough on Pacheco because they were a perfect couple. He said that although he and other friends were skeptical that Sacks could have a good relationship with someone 21 years younger, he changed his mind after first seeing how devoted the couple were to each other.

"This was meant to be," he said. "They were so perfect for each other." ▼

L.A. weddings

◀ page 1

rights for same-sex couples. Now, however, that has been eclipsed by Mayor Gavin Newsom's directive four weeks ago to have the city issue marriage licenses to gay and lesbian couples.

Goldberg and Stricker, who've been together for 28 years, have an adult son Brian Stricker-Goldberg, who attended the ceremony with his wife, Carmen McDonald-Goldberg.

"We raised a son who got married last May," Goldberg said. "We're not asking for a heck of a lot; it represents for us the ability to protect our family."

"I think it's remarkable," Stricker added. "People in jurisdictions around the country realize this is a civil rights movement."

Once the six couples - Goldberg and Stricker, Torie Osborn and Lydia Vaas, Ron Strohlich and Avi Rose, Jehan Agrama and Dwora Fried, Linda Garnets and Barrie Levy, and Ellen Ledley and Patti Giggas - completed their marriage license forms, they went to the clerk's office to have them

processed, then proceeded to the Rotunda where state Senator Sheila Kuehl (D-Santa Monica) officiated the six ceremonies.

Using the "something old, something new" marriage tradition, Kuehl addressed the six couples before the ceremonies and noted that marriage itself is old.

"The 'new' - I think you know.

It's you getting married. It's political and it's personal. You're doing this in public in City Hall in San Francisco in front of friends, family, and the press. What's private are your promises to each other.

"This is happy, this is deep, this is amazing," Kuehl added.

Osborn, who used to be executive director of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force and who was Kuehl's partner 13 years ago, reflected on the fact that San Francisco's City Hall has become a giant wedding chapel filled with love since February 12, the first day same-sex couples could get a marriage license.

"In the late summer of my life I met you," Osborn said to Vaas as they joined hands. "I stand with Sheila - my best friend in the universe - in this space with the spirit of Harvey Milk and the White Night riots. You are my beloved and I love you." ▼



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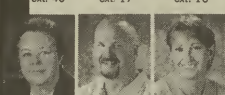
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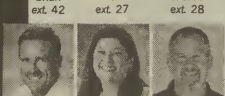
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Gay costumer talks of his career in stitches

by Eric Ganther

Gay men tend to excel in careers where "presentation is everything." And nowhere is presentation more important than the theater, where the stage production must trick the eyes and ears of the public into believing the action is real. Costuming plays a vital role in this deceit. Collaborating with directors and actors, costumers bring you to another place or take you back in time to give you a unique and rewarding experience. Costuming is a high art that operates from both contemporary and historical perspectives, and relies on a broad knowledge of clothing styles and construction. This week I interview Gregory Nelson: gay man, aspiring costume designer, and friend to both Barbie and Brunhilde.

What have you done with costumes?

I have worked as costume maker, dyer/painter, and designer's assistant for various opera houses and theaters around the country. I have designed costumes for plays, films, and performance art pieces. My goal is to design costumes for opera.

Why opera?

It's exhilarating to work on that level of intensity and scale. Once we're in rehearsals, I get to listen to and look at an opera over and over. It's extraordinary to be doing something that brings me into such intimate contact with a work of art. It's unlike film where you capture perfect moments. With the opera, as with theater in general, anything can go wrong and that gives it a fission that's very exciting to be around. We're responsible for making things go right but we also have to expect that things will go wrong.

I was just working as a costume assistant with director Achim Freyer on a production of Berlioz's *The Damnation of Faust*. The design included working lights for the will-o-the-wisp costumes. Inevitably, the movement of the dancers would break the wires, so I had to work with electricians and costume makers to

solve the problem. Ultimately I had to tell Mr. Freyer that we can have them working every night at the top of the show, but given the movement, they will break. His response: "If it doesn't break, it's not theater."

Have you worked with famous singers?

I have, especially as a costume assistant for the Los Angeles Opera: Ruth Ann Swenson, Samuel Ramey, Sir Thomas Allen, Eva Marton, Goesta Windberg, Matti Salminen. It's exciting working with these high-profile people. At first, the magnitude of their personas may be a bit intimidating; their requests may seem picky and sometimes irrational. But you have to realize that by the time you meet them they may have been traveling for hours or days and dealing with foreign cultures, and under a great deal of pressure to perform. I try to respect their needs instead of getting defensive about their demands and often find a warm and intelligent person behind the persona.

What's been your favorite opera to work on?

I've learned something valuable from every opera I've worked on. And I think almost every opera has the potential to be staged in a meaningful and entertaining way. Even when a production fails to achieve this potential, I usually find something inspiring about it, even if it just sets me to thinking about what could be...

One of my favorite experiences was with my very first production at the San Francisco Opera, when I worked as a stitcher. It was Borodin's *Prince Igor* designed by Zach Brown. It was so huge, and elaborate, and beautifully designed. And it involved such an enormous force of talented people working on such lavish materials. What a joy!

Another favorite: I was working as an assistant on a production of *Don Pasquale* that had been designed by Jean-Pierre Ponelle in the 1970s for Covent Garden and later purchased by the Los Angeles

Opera. It had been remounted so many times and passed through so many hands that many of Ponelle's details were either lost or had mutated. Since he had been dead for some time, he couldn't protect his work; I felt responsible to restore the integrity of the original design as much as possible. I dug up all the visual information about the original production I could find. His intelligent appreciation of early 19th century detail gave the costumes much of their charm and sense of comedy. By trying to see the production through his eyes, I felt like I was communing with a great mind.

How did you get started?

I've always been fascinated with what people wear and what it says about them. And, at an early age I read Greek tragedies for

the high drama and catharsis. I explored this combination dressing up my sister's Barbies. Greek tragedy, American comedy: I was born to work in the opera!

After graduating with a degree in art history, I took a job doing window displays at Urban Outfitters. Cool work, but I've no real love for retail. So I plotted my escape. I taught myself how to sew and made some costumes for friends making films or performance art. I built up a portfolio and took it to Jenny Green, who was then the costume director at the San Francisco Opera. She hired me as a stitcher for the 1996 season.

Where else have you worked?

I'm just finishing up at the L.A. Opera. I lived in Boston for a few years and worked at the American Repertory Theater in Cambridge, the Boston Ballet, the Huntington Theater, and the Boston Early Music Festival, which took me to Tanglewood and abroad. And I continue to do things for friends in film or performance art. I'll take almost any opportunity to build costumes.

What are the important skills of a costume designer?

The biggest skill is being able to work well with other people. Opera is a huge group of people coming together to make one thing happen. No matter what your duties, you need to be able to assess the strengths of the people around you and plug yourself into the equation. Collaboration is key to moving things forward.

Everybody needs to feel that the costume is serving their vision. You should be clever enough to design something that satisfies everyone and still get what you want across. This requires a judicious acceptance of other-people's ideas balanced with a firm confidence in the essentials of your design.

Costume designers also have to be diplomatic. Everybody has very specific notions of how they look in clothes; so putting a costume on someone is, of course, treading on delicate psychological territory. You must be very sensitive to that.

And once you've done all this, the director will change his or her mind late, late in the game, so you



Gregory Nelson

need to be flexible.

What don't you like about costume designing?

The work is sporadic. I spend quite a bit of time chasing jobs. And then when you're on, the hours can be very challenging, especially if you're really dedicated to it. There's a lot of tension because there's a lot at stake: a lot of money, a lot of egos.

What do you recommend to someone interested in costume design?

It's really important that you learn to sew and learn how the costumes are actually made. It takes time to do this. So I believe it's very important to work in a costume shop.

I went to graduate school in Boston where I learned a lot in one year. School is good. But I've met people who spent too much time there who may have interesting notions about theater but are clueless under fire. School works best if you think of it as paying someone to let you explore and fail, but it's no substitute for practical experience.

What about failure?

Failing is the ultimate way of learning something. It's also essential to making good art. In all the years I've been working in opera, I've experienced maybe five operas that were so successful that you weren't thinking of anything beyond what's in your ears and in front of your eyes.

What do you recommend to people working in retail who want to be doing something else?

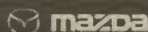
Just get involved with what you want to be doing. Jump in somehow. In fact, it's good to start at the bottom—that's how you learn to do everything. As a designer, knowing how to do everything is invaluable. If, for example, someone tells me that a certain fabric can't be dyed, when I know from experience that it can be, I teach them how to do it, and it gets done. And you can't do that unless you've done the job of dyeing.

How does being gay affect your work in costume design?

Gays make everything pretty! Although thumbing through *International Male* I'm not sure this is universally true. But growing up gay, you're sort of removed from the intensity of gender roles. So if you're a little fag that wants to sew pretty dresses, you can grow up and actually do it, and quickly realize that the gender stereotypes are bullshit.

How else does being gay affect your work life?

Being a gay kid, and being an outsider, your feelings tend to get trampled. This might lead you to be more considerate of others, and this skill definitely helps when collaboration is essential to your work. And then there's the [gay] special powers of observation, so



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If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. They must be submitted within a year of the death.

Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m., with the exception of special display ad obituaries, which must be submitted by Friday at 3 p.m.

Eloy Rivera



Our dear friend, Eloy, passed away peacefully in San Francisco on January 13, 2004.

He was born February 23, 1969, to Rogelio and Irma Galvan Rivera in Indio, California.

He loved showing his family and friends the city he

loved and made home for 10 years.

To have a party, you only needed Eloy. Always the light and life who never wanted the night to end. A professional in his affairs, tireless and loyal worker and devoted friend.

Eloy knew many people, but only a few really knew Eloy. He remains in our hearts and is loved forever by his family and friends. He is survived by two sisters, Latanya Michelle Towns and Shela Marie Towns of Coachella; two brothers, Rudy of Santa Ana and Roy of Thermal; and his parents, Rogelio and Irma Silva of Thermal.

A celebration of Eloy's life will be held Saturday, March 20 at the Pot Belly Pig in Oakland.

Donations are also being collected to inscribe Eloy's name in the Circle of Friends in the National AIDS Memorial Grove. For further information please contact Paul at pauldouglass2000@yahoo.com.

Scott Steinman
(a.k.a. Diana McGuire)

Scott Steinman (a.k.a. Diana McGuire), of San Francisco, passed away February 25th 2004.

Scott was born in King City, California, on May 10th, 1970. Scott is survived by partner Colt Neustadt, best friend Bill Chamness, parents Kenneth and Cheryl Stein-

man, a sister Donna Garcia, a brother Billy Joe Steinman, aunts Vickie Mueller, Kathy Yeager, Lori Peirson and Jackie King, a nephew, two nieces and several cousins.

Scott was raised in King City and attended King City High School where he was one of its first male cheerleaders. Scott as a Drag performer was best known as Mistress Diana McGuire. Originally a member of the DiFranco Dancers of Monterey Bay, Diana McGuire began a path of performing and charitable endeavor within the Court System attaining numerous titles over the years. These titles include Imperial Crown Princess 15 and Empress Elect 16 of the GCEMCI, Miss Gay Monterey County 1993, '94, '96, '97, '98, Miss Sweetheart 1993, '94, '95, Mistress of Style and Discipline in the Grand Ducal Court of Elegance and Romance, and most recently Miss Gay San Francisco 2004.

Additionally, Scott was the founder of Monterey Pride, Inc., now called The Pride of Monterey, which resulted in the 1995 gay pride celebration in Monterey County. Scott moved to Santa Cruz, California, where he participated in the annual Pride March and Festival for three years before moving to San Francisco in July of 1999.

He has left behind many friends who became his extended family.

A memorial is scheduled at the Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka Street, in San Francisco on Saturday, March 20th at 6 p.m. A Celebration of Life will follow at the Edge Bar, 4149 18th St., at 8 p.m. This event will benefit the Monarch's Charity Fund.

St. James clinic to move, needs volunteers

by Liz Highleyman

The St. James Infirmary, the Bay Area's clinic for sex workers, will move to a new location on Wednesday, March 17. The infirmary's new home will be at 1372 Mission between 9th and 10th streets, in San Francisco.

Founded in 1999 by Call Off Your Old Tired Ethics and the Exotic Dancers Alliance, the St. James Infirmary is the country's first occupational safety and health clinic run by and for sex workers. The clinic serves workers in all areas of the sex industry – from street prostitutes to exotic dancers to adult film actors – as well as their partners and children. All genders and sexual orientations are welcome.

"The clinic is really revolutionary because the decisions about what kind of care is needed and how it's going to be delivered

aren't being made by a guy in a suit a thousand miles away," said St. James co-founder Johanna Breyer. "They're being made by the people who need the health care."

The infirmary's many offerings include primary medical care, gynecological services, confidential HIV and sexually transmitted disease counseling and testing, hepatitis A and B immunization, acupuncture and massage therapy, mental health services, transgender health care (including hormone therapy), peer support, substance use counseling and treatment, harm reduction, smoking cessation programs, violence prevention services, legal and housing assistance, career counseling, social service referrals, and free condoms, food, and clothing.

Clinic hours are Tuesdays noon-3 p.m., Wednesdays 6-9 p.m., and (beginning March 25) Thursdays 6-9 p.m. Different ser-

vices are offered on different days; primary medical care is available on Wednesdays, and transgender services will be offered on Thursdays.

This Saturday, March 13, the clinic will hold a volunteer orientation from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. at the Mission Street location. The infirmary is seeking both medical professionals and people without specific health-care experience. Some of the available positions include administrative assistants, fundraising volunteers, HIV counselors, massage and reiki practitioners, outreach workers, research assistants, and information technology consultants. Current and former sex workers are especially encouraged to volunteer.

For more information about the St. James Infirmary's services and volunteer opportunities, call (415) 554-8494 or visit www.st-jamesinfirmary.org. ▼

ALRP

◀ page 17

funded by Ryan White CARE Act dollars, is being eliminated, affecting approximately 150 clients.

"We will be determining each day, each week what our availability is to process [client requests]. There may be longer referral times as we begin reducing staff May 31," said Jim McBride, the agency's director of development.

The staff layoffs include ALRP's director of client services, a housing attorney, immigration attorney, and office manager. Almost 1,000 of ALRP's clients will lose access to legal counsel in evic-

tion defense, insurance and employment HIV discrimination issues, and immigration matters.

"The ALRP board needed to take painful but decisive action in our effort to mitigate the impact of the CARE funding cuts on current and future ALRP clients, while ensuring the viability of the organization," said board co-chair Peter Borkon. "These actions will enable the continuation of free or low cost legal services to our clients and will ensure a thorough transitional planning process for ALRP in 2005 and beyond."

The new fundraising campaign will run through June 10. The agency is already meeting with major donors and foundations to

seek their financial support. It is hoping that key partners, such as law firms and corporations, will be able to give \$2,500 or more toward the campaign.

"We will really push, in that three-month period, to replace as much as funding as possible," said McBride, who met with potential donors over lunch Thursday. While several donors have already come forward, he added that the "atmosphere continues to be challenging" to fundraise.

For more information about the ALRP We Still CARE Campaign, or to donate to ALRP, visit www.alrp.org. Or contact Bill Hirsh, ALRP executive director, at (415) 701-1200, ext. 308. ▼

to my first opera: Richard Strauss's *Salome* at the San Francisco Opera where Maria Ewing stripped down naked on stage. What a great opera! I recognized the potential and was sold.

Where's your next gig?

Warsaw, Poland. I will go and assist with the remount of Achim Freyer's *Damnation of Faust*. And I'm moving to Berlin, where I have a job at the Berliner Ensemble working as an assistant on a Heiner Muller play. It's my first

foray into working in European theater.

Thanks for your time Gregory, Viel Gluck in Berlin. ▼

Eric Ganther is a career coach for queers in transition. He is a workshop leader and is writing a book on gay and lesbian work identity. E-mail him your questions, comments, and suggestions: eric@ericganther.com.



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Queer Careers

◀ previous page

useful in the arts, that again comes from being an outsider and observing other people's interactions to see how and why you're different.

Do you have a partner?

Yes. We've been together for nearly 11 years. He is very supportive. He has an intelligent appreciation of theater. He took me

Trans mission

by Jim Provenzano

Golfer Mianne Bagger will make history in Sydney by becoming the first player born a male to tee up in a national women's championship.

Bagger, 37, had sex-reassignment surgery and treatment in 1995. She'll play in the Australian Women's Open at Concord Golf Club.

Women playing in men's golf events have produced open hostility from some men. No. 2-ranked Vijay Singh said he would refuse to play with world No. 1-ranked Annika Sorenstam on the U.S. Tour last year. Golfer Greg Norman complained about another female golfer, Laura Davies, having played in the recent ANZ Championship at Port Stephens.

Bagger started playing at the age of 8. With a man's handicap of four, she won the South Australian women's amateur championship in 1999. The national amateur body changed the rules to allow her to compete. She won again in 2001 and 2002.

"There is a lot of misunderstanding about transsexual women in society," said Bagger in an interview with an Australian newspaper *The Age*. "I can't blame people for that. Why would people know anything about it? I'm

pretty open about my situation, explaining what goes on and what changes happen to the body. I would like people to have all the facts before they judge me."

Born in Denmark, raised in Copenhagen, London, and Adelaide as a boy, Bagger now lives in Melbourne. She said she does not have an unfair advantage because she was once a male. The reverse is the case, she says, because her

hormone treatment has left her with less testosterone than

anyone else in the Women's Open field.



Sports Complex

Ring sting

Will her progress affect other sports? Who will be the first out transsexual Olympic athlete, and might that person be a Gay Games alumnus? We might have found out this summer in Athens, if Olympic officials hadn't balked on this somewhat complicated issue of sex discrimination.

Athletes who have undergone sex-reassignment surgery were, for a short time, eligible to compete in the Olympics for the first time under new rules being finalized by the International Olympic Committee. After an October 2003 meeting in Sweden with medical experts, the IOC announced the revised policy.

"We will have no discrimination," IOC medical director Patrick Schamasch said in press



Australian golfer Mianne Bagger

statements. "The IOC will respect human rights." Schamasch said transgender athletes would be eligible for the Olympics once a certain amount of time has passed after surgery.

Several international sports federations asked the IOC for guidance on how to qualify transsexuals within the male/female definitions. The revised rules would have included both male-to-female and female-to-male cases.

But Olympic officials balked months later, declaring their competition to be limited to male and female categories.

Although ancient Greece was the source of many gay, lesbian, and transgender icons, contemporary Athens is quite conservative regarding the mere depiction of fictional gay sexuality.

For example, Greece's Mega Channel was fined \$117,000 by the National Radio and Television Council for showing a male-male kiss that aired in October 2003 on the weekly drama *Close Your Eyes*. The council said the scene "could damage young people by making them too familiar with vulgarity." A few weeks later, almost 50 gays and transfolk staged a kiss-in on the steps of the council's headquarters.

Transition

Will a transsexual athlete dare to come out in competition and defy the discriminatory flip-flop?

"Making a public announcement in support of trans people can expand options for trans athletes," said transsexual Alana Hardie, a U.S. citizen currently living in Toronto, Ontario. A soccer player, cyclist, weight lifter, rock climber, and student of martial arts, Hardie had hoped to see the sports movement evolve in light of the IOC's initial announcement. "I will stand firmly behind the

first few athletes to come out, because I think that they will bear the brunt of the attacks," she said. "Hopefully, within a few years, the world will calm down and it will be no big deal."

Some transgender athletes have gained notoriety for their struggles outside the Olympics, most notably tennis player and coach Renee Richards. Polish sprinter Stella Walsh may have been the first transgender Olympian athlete. She won the 100-meter gold medal at the 1932 Los Angeles games. Accidentally killed years later, her autopsy revealed an XY chromosome usually associated with males.

Other transsexual athletes do exist, but have yet to compete in the Olympics. Li Anne Taft, a male-to-female transgender paddler in Hawaii, competed with a women's canoe team despite an unresolved complaint with the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission. She claimed discrimination by the Hawaiian Canoe Racing Association, which requires a birth certificate to verify gender.

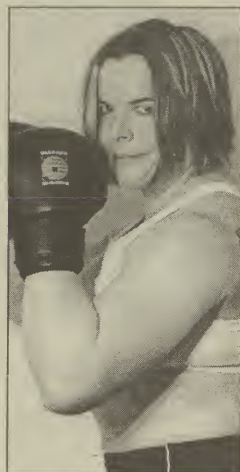
Canada's Michelle Dumaresq competed as a mountain bike racer. After sex-reassignment surgery in 1996, she competed in the 2002 World Championships in Austria, finishing 24th in the downhill discipline.

At the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, the Australian Olympic Committee's bylaws banned discrimination based on sexual orientation, defining "a person's gender or sexual orientation... as heterosexuality, homosexuality, bisexuality and transgender or transsexual." This bylaw actually preceded the recent IOC ruling. Competitors included up to 20 out lesbian and gay competitors, but did not have known transsexual participants.

Also, for the first time in 30 years, women athletes at the Sydney games weren't forced to submit to routine "gender verification." This followed a similar decision by the International Amateur Athletic Federation in 1992, and denunciations of the practice by the American Medical Association and other medical groups.

Dutch treatment

But will a transsexual athlete ever gain support from the gay community? Gay Games events have paid homage to the inclusive "LGBT" acronym. But Gay Games V in Amsterdam was the subject of allegations of sexual discrimina-



Alana Hardie, transsexual multi-sport athlete

tion after transsexuals were barred from competing unless they could provide evidence of "completed gender transition." The Amsterdam sports committee bowed to pressure to be more inclusive.

Still, participation remains small. Of 1,660 Gay Games V participants surveyed, less than 0.1 percent described themselves as transgender. Among almost 2,000 Sydney Gay Games VI participants surveyed, only 1 percent identified as transgender.

Some trans athletes may still wonder where to find acceptance for their achievements. "I think that the term GLBT is too often given lip service in most events or groups, not just in sports," said Hardie.

Hardie dismissed the charges that athletes use sex reassignment to obtain victory. "People don't transition because they want to shave four tenths of a second off their sprint; they do it because it's something they need to do for their own peace of mind."

Boston tee party

Athletes, sports administrators, and others will be attending the second annual Gay and Lesbian Athletic Foundation's sports conference in Boston and Cambridge, March 26-28. Panels, dinners, and other events got a lot of media attention last year. Several notable lesbian and gay sports celebrities will also attend. For more info, visit <http://glaf.org/> ▼

Read more sports articles at www.sportscomplex.org.

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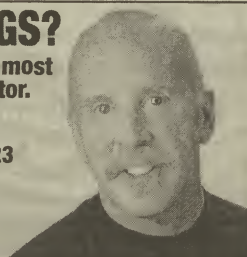
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TG benefits

◀ page 4

ordinance — transgender employees and advocates were left with a plan that basically discriminated against a group of subscribers for reasons that were not rooted in reality. Yet concerns lingered, and the Health Services Board just weeks ago put forth a proposal with no reforms to the transgender package, until supervisors balked.

"To their credit, the members of the Health Services Board came back and they did the right thing," said Arana. "They also negotiated with the HMOs and got a price of about \$1.16 per month, far less than the \$1.70 per month charged by the city plan."

HMOs now ready to offer transsexual health benefits to city employees are Blue Cross/Blue Shield, HealthNet, and Kaiser.

Moving all of the HMOs on board, said Arana, will allow

transgender employees to have lower-cost choices for their treatments. Currently, transgenders have to go outside of their HMOs to access procedures routinely covered by their HMOs, potentially costing them thousands of dollars on copays for surgeries that cost next to nothing through their HMOs.

"If I went for my hysterectomy and was a member of an HMO, I would have to access this surgery through the city plan because it is a trans related surgery, even though HMOs cover hysterectomies every day for people who are not transgender," said Arana, himself a female-to-male transsexual. "It seemed absurd that someone would have to go outside their HMO for something so routinely covered."

Other than genital reconstruction, most transsexual surgeries — like hysterectomies, and chest or breast surgeries — are already quite commonly performed. But that too may change, as Kaiser has an-

nounced that it will begin in-house training for transsexual surgeries in order to comply with the city policy. Other HMOs have identified competent providers for their transsexual subscribers who are city employees.

"It's only a matter of time until other employers could also ask for this coverage from HMOs, as the network is now being developed," said Arana. "Once insurance companies gather this actuarial information and see what these numbers are like in terms of costs, it's going to be just like the groundbreaking domestic partner benefits; they're going to remove these barriers and exclusions. And soon, more large employers who use Blue Cross, HealthNet, and Kaiser will request this transgender benefit from these carriers."

The Board of Supervisors still has to pass the city health benefits package; it is expected to take up the issue mid-month and have a final vote by the end of March. ▼

CLASSIFIEDS

Police commish

◀ page 2

board's are extended by three, and in some cases you have to try to balance what the mayor wasn't able to do," said openly gay Supervisor Bevan Dufty, who called Newsom's picks "outstanding" while emphasizing that having an openly LGBT person on the police commission is "critical."

"I've met with the mayor, and he has said that his options were more limited than the prior mayor, and he's hoping that the board will make that up," Dufty added.

While Dufty will be supporting Newsom's picks, openly gay Supervisor Tom Ammiano told the B.A.R. that he has "deep concerns" about a couple of Newsom's selections, and without elaborating, said he would be considering his vote carefully over the next few weeks. The board must approve Newsom's selections.

"Let's just say the jury's still out," said Ammiano of Newsom's appointees.

Ammiano also said that appointing an openly LGBT person to the Police Commission was a priority for him.

"I'm very strong on having someone from the queer commu-

nity on the Police Commission, and that includes someone who is transgender," said Ammiano. "I've seen a list of names of people who have expressed interest, and I think we need to do more outreach in the community."

Friday, who has served on the commission for eight years, said he was "disappointed" that Newsom did not forward a gay name, and that he finds himself in the "strange position" of stepping down without any guarantees that an openly gay person will fill his slot.

"I'm not questioning the mayor's choices - he's been very good to us, and I have no major concerns," said Friday, who said he personally knows all of Newsom's selections except for Marshall. Still, Friday - who is stepping down because he is "tired, and it's time for somebody new" - is hopeful that the board will vote through an openly LGBT police commissioner.

"There should be somebody from the community on there," he said, adding that police reform since Fajitagate looks good so far.

The board's Rules Committee itself may get some new members, which could influence the board's commissioner picks. All seven appointees have to be approved by a majority of the Board of Supervisors in a vote before May 1. ▼

Gay marriages

◀ page 3

compelling case made by the petitioners for them to take the case up or halt the issuance of the licenses. It's an extraordinary step," for the Supreme Court to take, said Herrera. "We already have cases pending at the trial court level. There has been no showing in any way they are ill equipped to fully develop the legal issues."

If the court does step in and issue an immediate stay, Herrera declined to answer what action, if any, the city would take to stop the gay marriages.

"I am just going to wait to see how the Supreme Court rules," answered Herrera.

Herrera has argued that both Mayor Gavin Newsom and County Clerk Nancy Alfaro "had the right to take the action they did" because by issuing the marriage licenses to gay couples they were adhering to the equal protection clause of the Constitution.

"We have made the argument that the equal protection clause of the federal Constitution applies here," he said.

Tyler countered that the equal protection clause should not apply in this case because anyone, gay or straight, can obtain a marriage license, "as long as they follow the rules and marry someone of the opposite sex."

Due to the argument the city is raising, Herrera suggested that the case could make its way before the United States Supreme Court. If so, it could be the case to either finally end bans on gay marriage or uphold marriage discrimination against gays and lesbians in this country.

If the state Supreme Court does not intervene, then all parties will return to San Francisco Superior Court on March 29. In anticipation of the court proceeding, Marriage Equality California is holding a candlelight vigil/karaoke wedding song marathon planned for Sunday, March 28 at 6:30 p.m. ▼

Seattle

◀ page 13

sets Constitution also may weigh into the equation. As the alternative newspaper the *Boston Phoenix* wrote, "Not only do Democratic legislators on the fence now have permission from the national party's putative leader to embrace the separate-but-equal civil-union compromise, but by voting for an amendment they can help defuse some of the 'Massachusetts liberal' rhetoric that's already been lobbed in Kerry's direction in time for the 2004 presidential election."

There is no consensus as to what impact these factors will have or what, if anything, will emerge from this session of the constitutional convention. Both sides are rallying their supporters for public demonstrations and quiet lobbying.

In Maryland, the House Judiciary Committee turned down a constitutional amendment to ban gay marriage by a vote of 13 to 7, on March 5. It also defeated a bill to prohibit recognition of same-sex marriages conducted elsewhere, but by a slimmer margin of

11 to 9.

Delegate Anne R. Kaiser, 36, declared her own sexual orientation during a hearing on partner benefits, on March 4. "Given the current climate nationally and in the state, this seemed like the time I needed to stand up and offer my colleagues another human face to this issue," The Democrat, who represents a suburban district between Washington and Baltimore, becomes the third openly gay member of the General Assembly.

Efforts to send antigay marriage amendments to state constitutions have failed to advance this year, often by the slimmest margins, in legislatures in Maine, Indiana, and Wyoming. Amendments will be on the ballot in November in Utah and Ohio.

In Brazil, same-sex relations took another step forward when a panel of judges in the southernmost state of Rio Grande do Sul mandated the creation of civil unions "between persons of sound mind and independent of sexual orientation." The ruling was requested by that state's human rights commission and affects all officials in the state of 10 million people. ▼

BAY AREA REPORTER
CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICES

SUMMER FOOD SERVICE PROGRAM

The Department of Children, Youth and Their Families (DCYF) is currently accepting applications from agencies interested in participating in the 2004 Mayor's Summer Food Service Program. In partnership with the San Francisco Unified School District, DCYF delivers free lunches to children and youth 18 years of age and younger at sites citywide. If you are a youth-serving agency or program that would like to serve free lunches to children and youth in your community this summer, please visit www.dcyf.org or call Camille Wise at 557-6773. Applications are due by March 22, 2004.

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To talk to the buyer in Office of Contract Administration, Purchasing who handles your product or service, visit www.sfgov.org/oca/purchasing view Information for Vendors and Contractors and then click on "List of Buyers and How to Contact Them."

Go to Bids and Contracts database to see what is out for bid right now. The URL is: <http://sunset.ci.sf.ca.us/pbids.nsf> (no "www"). Or you can get there from www.sfgov.org/oca/purchasing by clicking on "Bids and Contracts Database." You will see bids for all City departments and some bids for related agencies, including the School District, City College, Redevelopment Agency, and the Housing Authority, and some requests by potential prime contractors for bids from subs. The bid database is the most current information the City has, and it is updated throughout the day.

You can download some bid packages from the database. In the "Equipment, Supplies and General Services" section (managed by Contract Administration), almost all 5-digit bids have the complete packages attached. In the "Consultants and Professional Services" section, some items have the complete Request-for-Proposal packages attached. If you download a bid package, be sure to check the database from time to time for change notices, or call the department and ask to be put on its mailing list. For all other bids, you need to contact the department managing the bid to request the bid package. For more information about the bid database, call (415) 554-6248.

If you've never done business with the City before, a package of information can be sent to you. There are forms to fill out, and your company needs to be established in Office of Contract Administration, Purchasing Division's vendor file. For more information, call (415) 554-6743.

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STATEMENT FILE A-0273850-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Modelgo Landscaping, 3332 Noriega Street San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by an individual, signed John Foran. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 02/23/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/23/04.

FEB. 26, MAR. 4, 11, 18, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273809-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Ken's Towing 1340 Egbert Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Kenneth J. Cisne, Jr. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 01/01/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/20/04.

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STATEMENT FILE A-0273687-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: PNS.LLC, Pacific Neuropsychological Systems 769 37th Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94121. This business is conducted by a limited liability company, signed Charlotte Moore. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 08/23/03. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/18/04.

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STATEMENT FILE A-0273773-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Under Glass Custom Framing, 268 Church Street San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Lynn Cicchetti. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 01/05/1985. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/20/04.

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STATEMENT FILE A-0273758-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Consulting PGV, 2700 Folsom Street, #111 San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Pablo Gonzalez. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 02/13/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/19/04.

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STATEMENT FILE A-0273774-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Cafe Delina 559 Divisadero Street San Francisco, Ca. 94122. This business is conducted by an individual, Asmail Okbazghi. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/20/04.

FEB. 26, MAR. 4, 11, 18, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273585-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Leo's Paratransit 649 Masonic Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Dorothy M. Sanders. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 1/20/1999. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/11/04.

FEB. 26, MAR. 4, 11, 18, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273863-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: USA Thai Noodle, 2546 San Bruno Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94134. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed Buncherd Inkhong. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/23/04.

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STATEMENT FILE A-0273848-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Janitorial Service M.V.M., 1112 Shotwell Street San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Florentino Albino. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 02/23/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/23/04.

FEB. 26, MAR. 4, 11, 18, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273843-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Pinko Musik, 617 York Street San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Michael T. Richards. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on NA. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/23/04.

FEB. 26, MAR. 4, 11, 18, 2004

City and County of San Francisco
Department of Human Services
Request for Proposals #273
Dear Potential Applicant:

The San Francisco Department of Human Services (DHS) announces its intent to seek proposals from organizations interested in contracting to provide Work Readiness/LifeSkills Curriculum for Welfare-to-Work clients. In addition to providing the curriculum, the contractor is expected to train the DHS trainers, for classroom instruction, and for the students. The contract will be for the period of 7/1/04 to 6/30/06, for an amount to be determined. An RFP packet may be picked up at SF/DHS, Office of Contract Management, 1650 Mission Street, Suite 300, starting Tuesday, March 2, 2004. Office hours are from 8:30 AM to 5 PM. RFP packets and subsequent updates will also be available on the City's website. Go to HHSNET.CLSFCA.US/PBIDS.NSF and click on the "Consultants and Professional Services" link.

The Respondent's Conference will be held on Wednesday, March 17, 2004 at 9:00 AM at 1650 Mission Street, Suite 300, SF, CA. For further information, call Joseph Huang, at (415) 557-5181. Due date for responses is Wednesday, March 31, 2004 at 3:00 PM.
03/11/04
CNS: 646041#
BAY AREA REPORTER

City and County of San Francisco
Department of Human Services
Request for Qualifications #267
Dear Potential Applicant:

The City and County of San Francisco, Department of Human Services (DHS) announces its intent to seek qualifications from agencies or organizations interested in providing family preservation support services to families with disabled children. The Department expects the select one contractor through this RFQ process to offer referral/linkage services with follow-up to referral agencies, provide mentors, 1-on-1 support, and support groups to client families with children with special needs. The contractor would also be expected to be a training resource for the DHS Family Resource Centers, FCS workers, foster parents, birth parents and relative caregivers, and to other appropriate DHS contractors. The contract period will run from 7/1/04 to 6/30/07 for an amount to be determined. An RFQ packet may be picked up at SF/DHS, Office of Contract Management, 1650 Mission Street, Suite 300, Friday, March 12, 2004. Office hours are from 8:30 AM to 5 PM. The RFQ packet and subsequent updates may be downloaded from the City's website on or after Friday, March 12, 2004. Go to HHSNET.CLSFCA.US/PBIDS.NSF and click on the "Consultants and Professional Services" link. The Respondent's Conference will be held on Friday, March 19, 2004 at 9:30 AM at 1650 Mission St, Suite 300, SF, CA. For further information, call Kimberly Ferguson, at (415) 557-5585. Monday, April 12, 2004 at 4:00 PM - No Exceptions.
03/11/04
CNS: 645806#
BAY AREA REPORTER

STATEMENT FILE A-0273833-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Wilde Productions, Wilde Creative, Wilde TV, and Wilde Films, 1300 Marinara Street San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Michael L. Wilde. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 02/25/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/23/04.

FEB. 26, MAR. 4, 11, 18, 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273214-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: S and V Liquors, 1287 Howard Street San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by a Limited Liability Company signed Syed Ali. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on n/a. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/28/04.

FEB. 19, 26 MAR 4, 11 2004

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO

SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

To whom it may concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is/are Prasad Vikashani Anita and Ali Syed M. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control at 185 Berry Street, Suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at 1287 Howard St. San Francisco, Ca. 94103.

Type of License applied for:

21 - OFF-SALE GENERAL

FEB. 19, 26 MAR 4, 11 2004

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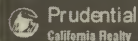
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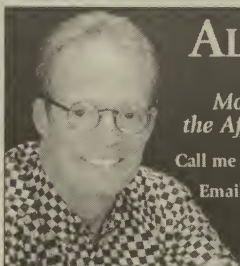


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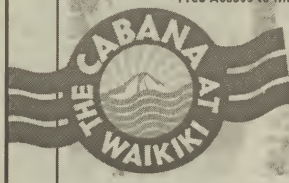


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LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE A-0273257-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Modlitbooks 585 Page St. #2 San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Lee Reynolds. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on n/a. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/30/04.
FEB. 19, 26 MAR. 4, 11 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273628-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Juan's Cutting Service 576 York St. San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Juan Garcia. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 01/26/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/12/04.
FEB. 19, 26 MAR. 4, 11 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273608-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Out To Sea 1561 Treat Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jennifer Price. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 02/11/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/11/04.
FEB. 19, 26 MAR. 4, 11 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273546-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Explorerour 323 Geary St. Suite 712 San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Gordon M. Fetherolf. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 02/10/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/10/04.
FEB. 19, 26 MAR. 4, 11 2004

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
FILE NO. CNC 04-541183

In the Matter of the Application of Joe Nathan Homer for Change of Name. The application of Joe Nathan Homer for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Joe Nathan Homer has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Joe Nathan Tobie. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 13th day of April at 9:00am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
FEB. 19, 26 MAR. 4, 11 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0274012-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Megalomed Services 425 Nee St. San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Gary Hoffman. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on n/a. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/26/04.
MAR 4, 11, 18, 25 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0274051-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: St. Rosa Transport 1201 Geneva Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual signed Wilson Rirao. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 02/26/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/27/04.
MAR 4, 11, 18, 25 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273929-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: J.L. Hauling 1112 Showell St. San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Jose Luis. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 02/17/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/25/04.
MAR 4, 11, 18, 25 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273983-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: L. Lemieux Entertainment, 2 Play Fast-forward Design 555 O'Farrell St. San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual signed Lawrence Lemieux. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 02/26/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/26/04.
MAR 4, 11, 18, 25 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273968-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: PI San Francisco/Cashion & Ferrara 1401 Nee St. San Francisco, Ca. 94113-1926. This business is conducted by a husband and wife signed Robert M. Ferrara. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on n/a. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/25/04.
MAR 4, 11, 18, 25 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273801-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Harrison Urban Forest Products 457 Mariposa St. San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an unincorporated association other than partnership signed Michael Harrison. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 01/01/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/20/04.
MAR 4, 11, 18, 25 2004

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT
OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME. FILE NO: A-0263396-00

The following person(s) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Ivalo Espresso Machine Service. Located at: 744A 47th Ave. San Francisco, Ca. 94121. This business was conducted by an individual signed Ivalo Regoli. The fictitious name referred to above was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on: 01/03/03. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/18/04.
MAR 4, 11, 18, 25 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273906-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Flourish Gardening 359 Bocana San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed W. T. Holt. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 02/22/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/24/04.
MAR 4, 11, 18, 25 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273762-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Glimpse 12 Winfield Street San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by an individual signed Sara G. Alm. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 02/20/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/20/04.
MAR 4, 11, 18, 25 2004

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND
FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
FILE NO. CNC 04-541227

In the Matter of the Application of Alex Kirienko for Change of Name. The application of Alex Kirienko for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Alex Kirienko has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Alex Kiren. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 27th day of April at 9:00am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
MAR 11, 18, 25 APR 1 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0273779-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: C & M Handyman Repair Service 318 Lakeview St. San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by a husband and wife signed Craig Biggers Jr. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 02/20/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/20/04.
MAR 11, 18, 25 APR 1 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0274150-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Lombard Towing 3101 3rd St. San Francisco, Ca. 94124. This business is conducted by a husband and wife signed Gerardo Hernandez. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 03/02/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/02/04.
MAR 11, 18, 25 APR 1 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0274146-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Let's Get West Entertainment 1049 Market St. #106 San Francisco, Ca. 94103. This business is conducted by an individual signed Charles Bocchetti. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 03/02/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/02/04.
MAR 11, 18, 25 APR 1 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0274166-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Joe's Barber Shop 4102 19th St. San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Joseph Gallagher. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on n/a. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/03/04.
MAR 11, 18, 25 APR 1 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0274022-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Drums and Wires 526 Broderick St. San Francisco, Ca. 94117. This business is conducted by an individual signed Kevin H. Aches. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 02/26/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 02/26/04.
MAR 11, 18, 25 APR 1 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0274175-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: SEVIVOR 1221 Jones Street, Apt. 4B San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by a general partnership signed Ellen Charnley. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on n/a. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/03/04.
MAR 11, 18, 25 APR 1 2004



STATEMENT FILE A-0274228-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: Blue Water Real Estate Group 447 Ivy Street San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual signed James N. Rothman. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 03/04/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/03/04.
MAR 11, 18, 25 APR 1 2004

STATEMENT FILE A-0274257-00

The following person(s) are doing business as: #1 Lost Art #2 Atelier Lost Art 3440 18th Street San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Mario Kashou. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on 02/27/04. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 03/05/04.
MAR 11, 18, 25 APR 1 2004

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO
SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

To whom it may concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is/are Alfredo Olguin and Yolanda Olguin. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control at 185 Berry Street, Suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at 82 First St. San Francisco, Ca. 94105. Type of License applied for:
41 - ON-SALE BEER AND WINE-EATING PLACE
MAR 11, 2004



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An open letter to the President of the United States and the Governor of California

Dear President Bush and Governor Schwarzenegger,

We felt an urgency to let you know that we support San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom's decision to issue marriage licenses to same-sex couples. The words of some members of the Church do not speak for all members of the Church on this issue. Although we believe Mayor Newsom's actions pertain to a civil enterprise, we also firmly believe that it is important for people of faith to speak up for the civil rights of all people. In our country's history the Church has often been on the wrong side of the fight for civil rights, including some of our Baptist brothers and sisters. We are proud to say the people of Dolores Street Baptist Church have been for many years a driving force in areas of peace, social justice, and civil rights. In this instance, our Baptist congregation wants to lead the fight for civil rights for our gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender brothers and sisters. We know that our position will be met with disagreement by many in our Baptist family, but for us this is a matter of God's calling, not the calling of the majority.

It is our sincere hope and prayer that you too will recognize that this is a matter of civil rights for all. Since the court decision of *Brown vs. the Board of Education*, our great country has held that separate is not equal and again in the case of our gay brothers and sisters, separate is not equal.

As people of faith we believe that all people are created in God's image. As citizens of the United States we believe our country was founded under the idea that all people are created equal and all people deserve equal rights and privileges and the obligations of these rights and privileges. We are not asking other churches to redefine marriage. We are asking the United States of America and the State of California to uphold its commitment to the equality of all people. As our leaders we urge you to honor the equality of all people who wish to enter into a loving committed relationship, regardless of their sexual orientation.

We invite you to meet the newly married and loving gay couple in our congregation that is now better able to protect their newborn son because of Mayor Newsom's action. We would love to have you meet all of the wonderful and loving people that make up this growing and vibrant faith community. Please feel free to look at our website, www.baptistchurhsf.org. We look forward to greeting you some Sunday in the near future.

Sincerely,
Dolores Street Baptist Church
San Francisco, California

This advertisement was paid for by Dolores Street Baptist Church.

Settling for 'the fat one'

How Judy Garland was chosen to star as Dorothy, and more 'Wiz of Oz' backstory.

page 37

Martha, my dear

How Ms. Stewart came undone, in 'Lav Tube.'

page 38



Running with Lammies

How Bay Area writers, editors practice their craft.

page 34



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

BAY AREA REPORTER

Vol. 34 • No. 11 • 11 March 2004



Seeing herself onscreen is 'so exciting.'

VISITOR FROM OZ

**MUNCHKIN
MARGARET
PELLEGRINI
TO APPEAR AT
THE CASTRO**

by Tavo Amador

One hundred and twenty-four people made film history 65 years ago. Today, 10 are alive, and six travel around the country to celebrate *The Wizard of Oz* ('39). These are the Little People who played Munchkins in that great Hollywood musical. One, Margaret Pellegrini, will be at the Castro Theatre on March 12 at 7 p.m., where she will be interviewed by Jan Wahl and help kick off *Sing-A-Long* (sing-along) performances of the movie that will run until March 25.

The Alabama-born Pellegrini was 15 when she got the call to come West to appear in what would be her only film. She was given transportation, room, board, and \$50 per week for six weeks. "Toto made \$125 a week," she laughingly related by phone during a recent conversation from her home in Arizona. Filming had begun in early '38, but she and the other Little People "did not arrive until just before Thanksgiving that year." Her six weeks turned to eight, because she was one of the few "asked to stay longer in case retakes were needed. But none were."

Teen on wheels

Did she do her own singing? "Only in rehearsal. All our voices were dubbed. Some of the Little People had foreign accents." She and the others had heard that Judy Garland wasn't

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HEART DECO

LEGION of HONOR hosts 'ART DECO 1910-1939'



Girl in a Green Dress (1927)
by Tamara de Lempicka

by Will Shank

On a glass-top table in my home sits my dad's first camera from his college days. It is a Kodak Bantam Special, and because he is the kind of guy who has never thrown anything away, its original box sits next to it. Both the packaging and

the machine are beautiful in their black-and-silver simplicity, and they give me pleasure to have around, not just out of family nostalgia, but because these two objects evoke a simpler era of design and technology. It was validating to see the very same camera and box, both designed by Walter Dorwin Teague between 1933 and '36, in a vitrine at the California Palace of the Legion of Honor last week.

The Legion has been turned over, lock, stock and barrel, to *Art Deco*, with very little permanent collection on view while the museum immerses itself in silver-plated nostalgia for the design of the 1930s. Locals from San Francisco's Art Deco Society (whose membership rivals only the denizens of the Castro in the belief that every day is Halloween) showed up at the press preview decked

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Totally gay headline

With a totally gay subhead

by Roberto Friedman

This week, VH1 debuts *Totally Gayer*, the cable channel's follow-up to last year's special *Totally Gay*. It's a video made for short attention spans that explores the new openness to gay images and celebs in mainstream culture. "Welcome to the new gay world!" begins the voiceover. "It's a world where straight people want to be gay!" Well, duh.

The show's many jumpcuts through the pink universe pause only briefly for gay-friendly soundbites from the likes of **Henry Rollins**, **Debbie Harry** and **Wilson Cruz** about how totally gay everybody in the industry is. OK, that's fine by us if cable culture wants to cash in on our fabled lifestyle. But we want to make a deal with all the Hollywood actors, agents and producers now jumping on the totally gay bandwagon: Gay it up all you want, but support our civil rights ass when the chips are down. As gay music man **Rufus Wainwright** sang last weekend at the Fillmore, "You'd better start praying for your sins, 'Cause the gay Messiah is coming!"

Hawke eye

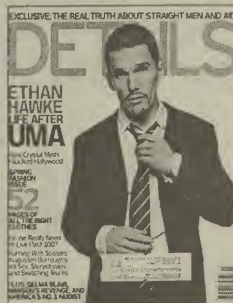
We totally gay feel towards hapless *Details* magazine like a mother hen feels towards her adolescent cluck. Readers may remember when *Details* used to try to lure gay readers in while coyly pretending to be a straight mag. Like a teenage boy still ripening on the vine, the magazine printed its first nipple-rip.

Then we began totally gay enjoying the next several issues, whose tone assumed the mag had both gay and straight readers, and they could co-exist. Now, however, the mag seems to have regressed to explaining gay to straight. The new issue treats us to "Myths, Mistakes, and Musings about the Modern Gay Man," "How Crystal Meth Hijacked Hollywood" and "Exclusive: The Real Truth about Straight Men and AIDS." That's just the cover!

Inside, we were temporarily distracted by the spread of beefcakey photos for the obligatory **Ethan Hawke** cover puff. Re E., *Details* plumps, "Newly single and svelte as a Spartan!" OT ads, "Get a load of his ripped, striated arms!" But then we found icky the



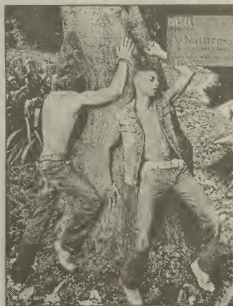
Hawke works out for *Details*.



article about how gays chase straights. We just feel we already have our gay hands full, so to speak, with swingles of our own kind. Yet the piece is written by **Augusten Burroughs**, a writer we usually admire. Part 1: "Can Gays Turn Straights?" Part 2: "Faking Gay." Pull-quote: "Gay men have the power, and they can get away with extremely forward comments," says one hetero model.

"You'd be an idiot not to flirt back."

Uh, how about straight men have the power. Is it satire or pandering? You decide. We had to flip



Diesel boys give good trunk.

ahead to the **Diesel** ad in which two shirtless studs do excellent stuff posing with a tree-trunk no straight guys ever need to know.

Skinny on skivvies

News reaches us all the way from the totally gay Garment District about the just-completed photo-shoot for designer-underpants label **2(x)ist's** first large-scale ad campaign. Session photographer was **Bruce Webber** protégé **Linda Churilla**. Bottom line is the briefs have gone rainbow palette. Think "Dublin Green," "Varsity Blue" and our fave, "Fire Island Red."

Models showcase the underwear's drape and bounce by jumping on a trampoline, practicing yoga, and performing Brazilian martial arts Capoeira moves. Kewl. Gratis shorts reportedly adorn the rears of **Justin Timberlake**, **Ashton Kutcher** and **Loon**. The new ads will begin appearing mid-summer. We'll be keeping our panties in a bunch 'til then.

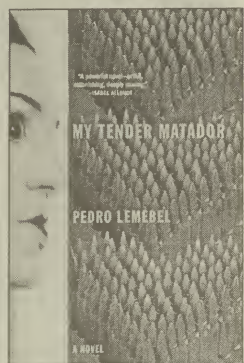
Curious curator

The annual **Meltdown** arts festival in totally gay London announced last week that former **Smiths** frontman **Morrissey** is to be the artistic director of this year's fest. The Moz will curate his own festival of events at London's

South Bank Centre from June 11-27, 2004. He's the 12th artist to head **Meltdown**, which mixes programs of rock, classical and contemporary music, film, dance and performance.

"This is a privilege, and I will rise to it," Morrissey told the UK's *Guardian*. "Curating **Meltdown** is a great opportunity for me to acknowledge some of the music and words that have excited me over the years. Some of you have iPods, I have **Meltdown**." **Diva!**

Previous **Meltdown** directors include **David Bowie** (2002), **Nick Cave** (1999) and **Laurie Anderson** (1997). More info at www.rfh.org.uk/meltdown.



Tender vittles

Our vote for the most totally gay description of a blowjob so far this year comes from *My Tender Matador* by Chilean author **Pedro Lemebel**, in an English translation by **Katherine Silver** just out from Grove Press. "She gently cradled it in the palm of her hand and brought it out into the room's dim light, unfurling to its full length the growing baby boa that, when taken out of its cage, flopped down like a whip. ... In spite of its flaccidity, the cane was as robust as a war trophy, a thick finger with no nail that begged for a mouth to ring its livid gland. And thus the **Queen** obliged; removing her false teeth, she wet her lips so she could slip smoothly down the clapper that would ring between her empty gums."

Divine intervention

Dept. of no comment: Reports from reliable sources say a crew member on the set *The Passion of the Christ* was struck twice by lightning during filming. Assistant director **Jan Micheline** now goes by the nickname "Lightning Boy."

Playing w/Mike

Playwright **Larry Myers** has put out a call for 5-minute plays and monologues by SF writers, to be read in a summer theatre evening in memory of the late **Mike Salinas**, who was *Bay Area Reporter* news editor for many years and totally gay. The date and time for the tribute, to be held at the Exit Theatre, are yet to be announced.

Myers wrote for Salinas when Mike was editor at *TheatreWeek* in NYC. His plays *Cha Cha* to the *Outer Limits* and *Keith Haring's My Idol* have played the Exit and the Marsh, and he leads playwriting workshops dealing with homelessness and AIDS. Scripts can be submitted to Dr. L.D. Myers at 19 Commerce St., Suite 12A, NY, NY 10014. ▼

OPERA

Potted 'Ring' prevails

Berkeley Opera tackles legendary cycle

by Stephanie von Buchau

I cry at weddings, horse races, Lassie movies and *Madama Butterfly*, but I have never cried at *Der Ring des Nibelungen* until Saturday night at the American premiere of *The Legend of the Ring*. Presented in a stunningly effective though occasionally glitch-ridden production by Berkeley Opera, this three-and-a-half-hour "potted" *Ring* managed to produce more goosebumps and emotion than many of the 17 cycles of Wagner's masterwork I've attended in 55 years of international opera-going.

The Legend of the Ring is the brainchild of David Seaman, a rumpus Brit who conducts at Welsh National Opera and is obviously one of those Wagner nuts who adores the master's work but doesn't take it so seriously that it spoils the fun. He figured that 15 hours of *Ring*, while an overwhelming cultural artifact, is also difficult to produce and simply not available to everyone who wants to experience it. Was it possible to reduce *The Nibelung's Ring* to a manageable evening's epic, with a small orchestra — 12 instrumentalists playing 20 instruments, including three Wagner tubas — that wouldn't alter the work's harmonic or melodic structure nor void its emotional content?

From where I sat, honking into my Kleenex, the answer is a resounding yes. Berkeley Opera's artistic director Jonathan Khuner, who also conducted, thinks the piece is equally suited to novices and adepts, but I can't imagine someone who doesn't know the work getting as much pleasure as we did from Seaman's clever, dramatic and moving reduction. You have to have an open mind (and most Wagnerians don't, being ready to defend their guy and his turf with pitbull tenacity) because Seaman is ruthless.

Gone are the big orchestral numbers — no entrance into Valhalla, no Ride of the Valkyries, no Forest Murmurs, no Funeral March. Goodbye also to the Valkyries, Norns, Donner, even the green lump Erda. All narrative repetitions (most prominently Wotan's narration) are excised, as are major musical numbers ("Du bist der Lenz," two-thirds of the *Siegfried* love duet including "Ewig war ich," and the final section of *Siegfried's* death scene.) These are grievous losses, to be sure, but the piece plunges forward so precipitously that we haven't much time to mourn their absence.

What Seaman has done brilliantly is segue from one section to another with seamless integrity and some truly astonishing musical jumpcuts. *Siegfried's* love duet slips into *Götterdämmerung's* "Zu neuen Taten" without a break. The vengeance trio in *Götterdämmerung* morphs into the hero's narration, with the extra shock of Guttrune listening in horror. Only *Siegfried* seems diminished, jerky and truncated rather than merely reduced. Its third act, the best sustained music in *The Ring*, lasts about 10 disappointing minutes.

Still, as my companion noted, *Götterdämmerung* with Gunther rather than Hagen as the main character "finally makes dramatic sense after all these years," and the



Christine Springer is Brunnhilde in Berkeley Opera's *Legend of the Ring*.

last two scenes of *Walkure* were unbearably moving. Of course, with a less committed performance, all the above would be moot. Khuner's tempos, as always, were organically apt. If his players occasionally had pitch problems (I didn't care for the keyboard's ghostly tinkling in lieu of a harp), they still made a glorious noise when they had to.

Rapture captured

Very much a singing-actor's *Ring* rather than the usual expansive conductor's version, this Berkeley Opera performance was dramatically sharper and more musical than many performances I've heard in Bayreuth, Seattle, the Met or San Francisco. Though everybody was good, the "star" was probably major Wagnerian Marie Plette, who lives in Berkeley and is married to Mark Streshinsky, whose clever staging got over most of Wagner's awkward moments. Not only did she sing Woglinde, Freia, Forest Bird (got up as Hedda Hopper) and Guttrune, but she is one of the half-dozen best Sieglindes I've ever heard. Attired as a frumpy housewife and shorn of her aria, she still greeted her brother with incestuous rapture, producing a superb "O hehrstes Wunder" when told she is carrying Siegmund's child.

Siegmund, Siegfried and Froh were sung by Roy Stevens, a former baritone who nailed the heroic top notes. Dumpy and middle-aged (a red sweatshirt turned him into a convincing teen), he's a tenor stud every time he opens his mouth. The anguished Wotan, Wanderer and weaselly Gunther were sung by Clifton Romig, a Kelsey Grammer look-alike. How he produces his cavernous sound I couldn't say; it's certainly not orthodox, and his Wotan is shy two top notes. (Wanderer lies even higher, but almost all his music is cut.) Romig acted cold and unsympathetic in a corporate chairman sort of way, but when he ordered Hunding to kneel before Fricka, Wotan's tragedy pierced to the heart.

Gary Ruschman's Loge and Mime were so entertaining it's a pity much of Mime's funny stuff was missing, but the tenor's stage smarts may have persuaded Streshinsky to insinuate Loge in places where he belongs only as

flame, not as comedian. The rest of the cast — Christine Springer (Wellgunde, Brunnhilde), Catherine Cook (Flosshilde, Fricka), Jo Vincent Parks (Alberich, Fasolt), William Pickersgill (Fafner, Hunding, Hagen) — was equally adept at moving the drama along and engaging our sympathies.

Jeremy Knight's video projections ranged from stunning (a Rhine full of swimming fish) to sporadically amusing (Sieglinde's filthy kitchen stove). There were an unfortunate number of electronic glitches opening night, including an entire projection screen that went out 10 minutes into the second act and problems with the supertitles. Still, the bottom line is that this hugely ambitious project produced smiles, thrills and tears. Can't ask for better than that for any amount of money on any international opera stage. ▼

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Throwbacks & throwaways

Giving 'Thanks for the Feedback' at LGBT Center

by Richard Dodds

The casual air of works in progress provided an amiable atmosphere for the debut of CenterStage at the Rainbow Room. That's the high-end name for a new program that wants to turn a bland space at the LGBT Community Center into a viable home for the kinds of acts

that once played Josie's Cabaret and Valencia Rose.

The black velvet curtains meant to disguise the room's multi-purpose mission were not yet all in place on opening night, and the show that inaugurated the program certainly did not suggest the vitality-sapping sin of over-preparation. Doug Holsclaw, a Bay Area gay theater and comedy veteran, is presenting *Thanks for*

the Feedback, a standup reminiscence that jumbles together old and new material with mildly amusing behind-the-scenes stories.

Holsclaw openly displayed the notes he had taped to a stool, and when his delivery stumbled or a joke fell flat, he declared the fact. The confessional air took some of the burden off material that wasn't always as sharp and fresh as it might be. "Dykes have the cleanest bathrooms," begins one story. A yellowing piece of newsprint provides fodder for another gag. He wanted to have mudpicks rather than make mudpies as a kid, goes yet another.

But there are moments when the material connects with the often unspoken realities of gay life. He mock-harangues older gay men to give up the illusion that they can still be a bottom. An old bottom makes as much sense as compassionate conservatism, he says. And the trend toward shaved pubic hair makes him long for the

days when we all looked like Gabe Kaplan down there.

Some of the throwbacks are fun. He reads from a Helen Gurley Brown book on how to give the man in your life a blowjob, while hilariously miming her various tips in a bemused desperation.

The act, directed by F. Allen Sawyer, is in need of structuring and streamlining — and more time in front of an audience. Pippi Lovestocking, the opening act on the first weekend, looked to be reading out loud a collection of scribbled jokes for the first time. Anita Cocktail does the opening honors on the final weekend with, one hopes, some preparation. ▼

Thanks for the Feedback will have final performances at the LGBT Community Center on March 12-13. Tickets are \$18. Call 865-5525 or go to sfcenter.org.



Doug Holsclaw: behind the scenes

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Dark passages

Ibsen's 'Ghosts' at Berkeley Rep

by Richard Dodds

There is no question that Ellen McLaughlin delivers a fascinating performance as Mrs. Alving in *Ghosts*. But is it fascinatingly good or fascinatingly bad? I wavered on the question throughout Berkeley Rep's production of the Ibsen play, and even with a couple days of hindsight, I can only conclude that it is a memorably original creation.

McLaughlin, the original angel in *Angels in America*, is hardly a demure performer, and various smirks, scowls, and tics readily reveal her emotional take on Mrs. Alving. She's a bull at one moment, scraping at the ground with her hoof before beginning a charge. At another moment, she's nearly crawling the walls while howling in anguish. This is definitely not an internalized performance.

That director Jonathan Moscone's interpretation is to be reductive — that is, amassing the play's ingredients into inflated facets — is signaled by Neil Patel's set design that's barely more than a single massive wall. That wall, representing the Alving home in an isolated region of Norway, eventually disappears, offering clear views of the theater's unadorned wings. Theatrical "magic" is revealed and reduced, perhaps to move the 1881 play to a space that the production can share with the audience.

Contemporary resonance in *Ghosts* is not a new discovery, not least of all in the play's use of an incurable stigmatized sexually transmitted disease as the fulcrum on which the characters must balance their moral moorings. Even more than the obvious syphilis-AIDS connection, the play resonates with society's ongoing need to preserve illusions of righteousness no matter the hypocrisies that may be required.

For Mrs. Alving, the illusions are long gone, even though she



David Duffield as Oswald, Ellen McLaughlin as Mrs. Alving in *Ghosts*

still marches in step with society's expectations. She loathed her philandering late husband, but is about to dedicate an orphanage in his honor. She is exhausted living lies in the name of duty, and a collision is set up with the arrival home of her ailing bohemian son and the presence of the family's dogmatic, anti-pleasure pastor, who keeps a keen eye trained on public opinion.

If there is a hint of humanism in Pastor Manders, James Carpenter doesn't seek it out in his unwaveringly repressed/repressive interpretation of the clergyman. The performance is not at odds with the text, certainly, but the passion that Mrs. Alving once felt for the pastor begins to seem bizarre — at least in the form of McLaughlin's quirkily spirited Mrs. Alving and Carpenter's dour Pastor Manders.

As Oswald, the prodigal son returned, a barefoot David Duffield gives the character a contemporary flair before his rapid descent

from renegade to invalid. It's a performance that works well until the very final moments, when Duffield's limp suggestion of Oswald's final collapse is partnered with McLaughlin's Grand Guignol writhing hysterics.

Emily Ackerman doesn't exactly look like the descriptions of the housemaid Reginea as unknowing participant in the sordid Alving history, but it is a proficient performance. Brian Keith Russell is excellent as her crude but shrewd father who finally outwits the pastor.

This is a *Ghosts* of risks that offer varying rewards. But if the bottom line is to bring envelopment anew in a theatrical masterpiece, then this production definitely succeeds. ▼

Ghosts will run through April 11 in Berkeley Rep's Roda Theatre. Tickets are \$43-\$55. Call (510) 647-2949, or go to berkeleyrep.org.

Ode to dear old East Germany

Learning to say 'Good Bye, Lenin!' with Daniel Brühl

by David Lamble

What is the most outrageous yet most predictable thing that could happen to a gorgeous German boy on his first free night in San Francisco? His head filled with dreams about his American film debut, the release of *Good Bye, Lenin!*, a quirky new comedy set around the destruction of the Berlin Wall, actor Daniel Brühl got a menu and a little more in an eatery that, for the purposes of this story, we'll call "the House of Guys." Laughing a little sheepishly, not wanting to say the wrong thing in the capital of same-sex marriage, Brühl, with a little prompting from *Lenin* director Wolfgang Becker, gave a light spin to his gay night on the town.

"A waiter in the restaurant fell in love, I think. And I realized it right away, when we sat down. When I was in the restroom, I knew that he would be waiting for

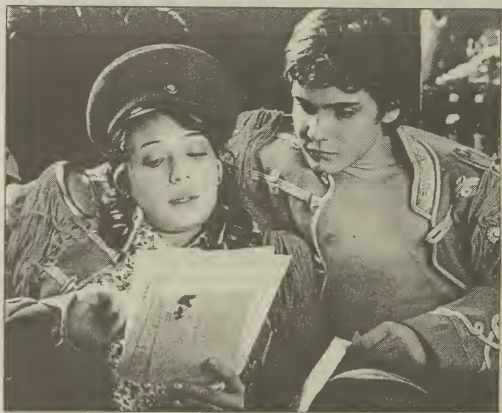


Daniel Brühl as Alex in *Good Bye, Lenin!*

me. I opened the door, and there he was. Asking me how my name is, and then he held my hand a bit too long, but it was funny. I'm used to it because Cologne, the

city where I grew up, is, after San Francisco, one of the major gay capitals of the world. I had a lot of friends who are gay. I've never had a problem with that."

Brühl, on and off screen, radiates the soulful intensity found in the work of young American prodigies like Jake Gyllenhaal or Ryan Gosling, the ability to segue almost mid-sentence from drama to comedy, to simultaneously be the boy next door and a dangerous, dark trickster who just might do anything that popped into his head. In *Good Bye, Lenin!* (directed by Becker from a script by Bernd Lichtenberg) Brühl plays Alex, a young East German lad whose father has escaped to the West and whose mother is burying her grief in an ideological love affair with the final years of East German state socialism. Early in the film, Brühl's Alex finds himself caught up in what starts out as peaceful demonstration to protest the wall and turns into an ugly insurrection when the army



Chulpan Khamatova as Lara and Daniel Brühl in *Good Bye, Lenin!*

Home-brewed drama

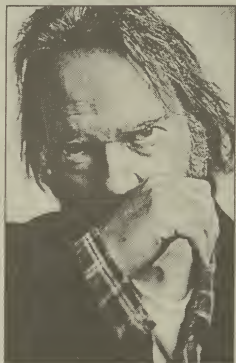
Neil Young's Super-8 'Greendale' opens

by David Lamble

Greendale, the new film by rock legend Neil Young, is an odd hybrid that almost defies any label. Is it a 90-minute music video, an oddly appealing rock opera, a soap opera for tree-huggers, a reinvention of the silent movie, or perhaps none of the above?

Photographed by Young with a Super-8 camera and then blown up for the big screen, *Greendale*'s colors are saturated, and its images grainy. Its characters exude an elegiac yearning that gives one the sense that it's a newly excavated '70s time capsule. The film has an oddly retro-primitive sensibility that, complete with hand-drawn illustrations, falls somewhere between Grandma Moses and "American Gothic."

The story, such as it is, involves three generations of the Green clan, whose lives are upset when headstrong Jed Green (Eric Johnson) is arrested for killing a police officer. Sibling Sun Green (Sarah White) welds herself to a Town Hall statue, setting off a media frenzy that climaxes on the lawn of the Green family bungalow.



Young, auteur: '70s time capsule

Greendale's star is Grandpa Green (Ben Keith), the only character who feels at home lip-synching to Young's lyrics. Peering through his Venetian blinds at the hordes of TV reporters crawling across his front yard, Grandpa blisters with indignation that combines the appeal of rock and rap: "Those people don't have any respect, so they won't get any of mine. I ain't going talk about Jed. I don't watch channels 2, 6, or 9.

It ain't any honor to be on TV, and it ain't a duty, either. The only good thing about TV are shows like *Leave it to Beaver*."

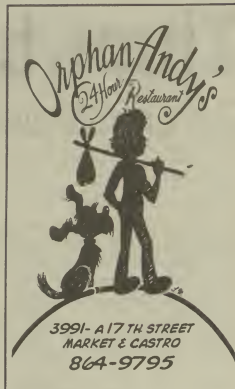
Grandpa fires his shotgun above the herd of reporters. The effort seems to snap something inside his head, because he falls over in a heap. Young chooses this moment to inject a much-needed dose of self-parody. Grandpa looks up at the camera and, in Young's singing voice, complains, "That guy keeps on singing. Would somebody shut him up? I don't know for the life of me where he comes up with that stuff."

Whether you'll like *Greendale* depends very much on how much Neil Young you can stomach in one sitting. The soundtrack plays like a Neil Young solo double-album. Young's high voice is actually not the problem, but it's an effort to maintain one's sanity through the drone of his rock band's backbeat for 90 minutes. This "musical novel" is best appreciated on a big screen, no more than three rows back, with a cold refreshment and a super burrito. ▼

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is turned loose on the crowd. As Alex is being dragged away by baton-wielding soldiers, he spots his mother staring at him from across the square. Suddenly, she collapses, in what turns out to be a coma-inducing heart attack. Brühl admits that the moment, a last chapter in the tawdry history of the East German Democratic Republic (GDR), was so convinc-

page 43 ►



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Literary voices speak out in SF

14 Lambda Literary Award nominees read at the Main Library

by Kevin Davis

Fourteen of this year's Bay Area Lambda Literary Award contestants proclaimed their truths (and sold work, thanks to Oakland's Boadecia Books) on March 2 at the Main Library, hosted by *Lambda Book Review (LBR)* editor Lisa Moore, *LBR* history/reference book critic Jim Van Buskirk and Lambda Literary Foundation (LLF) Board Member Katherine V. Forrest as a prelude to the June awards ceremony in Chicago.

Two-time Lammy winner Forrest opened the event by explaining the controversy surrounding the LLF's decision to let compete a nominated book which has offended some in the transsexual community, and their steps to rectify the situation. "We are all one community," she assured.

Kevin Bentley read his account of his dying lover's caregiver, a "dizzy girlfriend in a gymbot's body" with many enemies who seduces his grieving clients' lovers and borrows \$500 from Bentley. Of the professional widow-hopper's Lycra-sheathed "rolling pin," Bentley writes, "its superfluosity was like a massive piece of Victorian furniture you have to keep stepping around."

Daphne Gottlieb's poem "Female Trouble" spliced together news accounts of a transsexual youth's murder and a cannibalistic



Daphne Gottlieb: wearing crop-tops

wife. "Growing long hair and wearing crop-tops....chunks of flesh between teeth.... His tombstone/will say 'Gwen,'" she wailed. Carla Trujillo read from her

novel *What Night Brings*, showing visceral recall and an authentic ear for an adolescent's language, curiosity and courage while inventing her identity. When the young narrator asks about the likelihood of a girl becoming a boy, her librarian fetches Christine Jorgensen's memoir.

Michelle Tea fiercely read the title poem from her collection *the beautiful*, composed while returning from her first tour with performance-poetry troupe Sister Spit, a New-Agey twist on Allen Ginsberg's national deprivation rant. "America, you're emotionally unavailable./America, you stuck-up bitch, you think you're too good for me," Tea cried.

Joel Perry's vivacious delivery of his story "Bring Back the Debbie Allen Dance Number," label-

ing Oscar producers "high-rent trailer trash," had the library crowd howling.

Thanks to protease inhibitors, many of Richmond District photographer Roslyn Banish's 40 *Focus on Living* portrait subjects, diverse PWAs, still thrive. She read from their monologues on relationships, community, family and coming out as HIV-positive people. A Dakota Indian discussed his respect for the Great Spirit, and MTF Connie said, "I want a masculine, heterosexual male," as the audience concurred with affirming nods.

Flamboyant Matt Bernstein Sycamore blatantly articulated every syllable while reciting his disturbingly repulsive erotica story, "Pulling Taffy," about masturbating the erectile dysfunction.

Queer Crips editor Bob Guter confided his early anxiety that, when sighted with other disabled people, he felt conspicuous, "one of them."

Lucy Jane Bledsoe, who recently returned from Antarctica on an arts science fellowship, brought the house down reciting her narrator's description of a lover as a question on TV show *Jeopardy*, "What is butch?"

Chicago's Meg Chilton read about her encounter with Uma Thurman-type dancer Persephone on unionized peep show *Lusty Lady's* mirrored fishbowl stage.

Karin Kallmaker, author of 17 novels, read from her Bella Books romance, *Maybe Next Time*, in which the narrator, a violin prodigy, 15, falls for an ice-skater. ▼

Lammy-nominated writers spill their secrets

by Kevin Davis

The revolution in queer expression continues as thriving neighborhood novelists, poets and short-story writers, many nominated for 2004 Lambda Literary Awards, practice their craft daily. An editor solicits contributions for an anthology on an emerging issue; a coy geek fluffs up his risqué diary entries for

publication; and bufo bohemians spit it at shadowy slam competitions. These persevering scribes discuss their Lammy-nominated work and careers, and disclose their productivity secrets — namely discipline, practice, and putting pen to paper.

"No-one writes for the GLBTQ community to get rich," says Joel Perry, author of the personal-essay collection *That's Why They're in Cages, People*. "Find a

place where you can read your stuff aloud," Perry advises neophyte satirists. "Nothing is as responsive or immediate as an audience, because if it ain't funny, boy, will they tell you."

"Put in lots of specific detail, remembered dialogue and complete anecdotes, rather than lots of pages about your abstract feelings," Kevin Bentley, editor of *Boyfriends from Hell*, advises those hoping to transform their journals into cash cows.

A childhood attraction to Sam Raimi's *Evil Dead*, George Romero's *Day of the Dead* films and feminist film theory all motivated performance poet Daphne Gottlieb's collection, *Final Girl*. Gottlieb calls her teaching role in Berkeley Pacific Center's queer/transsexual youth creative-writing class her proudest accomplishment "because the writing was essential to their life."



Lucy Jane Bledsoe: storm-tossed

spired by a UC Davis professor who studied abused children's coping mechanisms.

Michelle Tea's ferociously honest collection of "alcoholic poems," *the beautiful*, covers her voyeuristic stepdad, her stint in sex work, and her guileless affection for girls. It reads like journal entries glossed into sweet, engaging songs. In "my pain," she labels her body "fleshy houses that/noone ever visits/though sometimes they knock, ring the bell and run."

"I still feel yearny, but it seems less of a big deal somehow," says Tea, whose graphic novel *Rent Girl*, created with artist Lauren McCubbinn, hits shelves in July. "I've become less charmed by my thoughts."

Queer Crips is *Crip*gay webzine creator Bob Guter and arts administrator/filmmaker/former dancer John R. Killackey's collection of 32 first-person narratives on how the differently-abled contend with a beauty-obsessed gay community and a society that views the disabled as neutered. Rejected by 30 publishers before acceptance by academic press Haworth, *Queer Crips* includes local Chris Hewitt's poetry, Greg Walloch's performance pieces, Axis Dance Co. members recounting their participation with mobility-impaired bodies, and nudes from Laurie Toby Edison's Lammy-nominated photo book, *Familiar Men*.

"Enabling them to speak in a receptive environment as disabled gay men is the most exciting creative thing you can do for men in straitjackets," says Guter, a "reformed architectural historian."

Co-editor Killackey wrote on the absence of disabled gay men's reference books when he awakened paralyzed neck down after spinal-cord surgery. "Visiting queer bars is harsh for the blind, deaf, or people with motor difficulties," says Killackey.

In Michael Thomas Ford's romance *Last Summer*, a young Midwestern man searches for himself in Provincetown. "There's two kinds of people: People who want to write, and people who want to have their name on a book," says the prolific Ford, who, when not composing one of his books in the Outer Sunset, unlinks by instructing scuba-divers in Monterey. "Publication is almost always a disappointment. It does not make everyone love you." ▼

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Rocky horror picture show

Mel Gibson's relentless 'Passion of the Christ'

by David Lamble

Satan pays a visit to a sorely troubled Jesus in the opening minutes of Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ*. The hooded figure of the devil has an oddly androgynous appearance, which, along with the fact that they're speaking Aramaic (which sounds a little like Swedish), gives the scene an eerie resemblance to an early film by Ingmar Bergman — say *The Seventh Seal*. Gibson achieves this effect by having an Italian actress (Rosalia Celenano) appear as Satan while her dialogue is dubbed over by a male voice. This cross-dressing devil is both a nod towards a more interesting movie and a last exit before a relentless two-hour Biblical mugging. Now playing at malls everywhere.

When Pier Paolo Pasolini made *The Gospels According to Matthew*, he gave us a slimmed down but complete life of Jesus, including his birth, teachings, good deeds, betrayals and, yes, death on the cross. Pasolini didn't stint on the sadomasochistic parts, but as a good homosexual Christian Marxist, he put them in context for believers and non-believers alike. Of course, Pasolini chose for his Christ a skinny, boyish Spaniard. Scholars inform us that the actual Jesus, if he was a man of his time, would have stood less than five foot, three

inches. A truly realistic Jesus could have been played by Linda Hunt, Gibson's co-star in *The Year of Living Dangerously*. James Caviezel comes across as a well-nourished man of our times, someone who's been sticking to the Atkins Diet rather than beetles and bark, or fishes and loaves.

Before leaving the Garden of Gethsemane, Gibson gives us a final queer moment, that chaste manly kiss of Jesus by Judas, who then turns Christ over to the Roman Army. The Roman soldiers at first just muss Jesus up a little, as if his fate were no more ominous than a Saturday-night stay in the drunk-tank. You'd not be surprised to hear a centurion repeat Strother Martin's ironic line from *Cool Hand Luke*, "What we got here is a failure to communicate." But Mel Gibson is no ironist.

Gibson's *Passion* is a modern film version, with all of its computer-generated graphic violence, of a traditional Christian Passion Play, which assigns the Romans and the Jewish priests their New Testament roles in the killing of Christ. Gibson's plea that he is no anti-Semite is strictly speaking accurate, but misleading. When David Lean constructed *Lawrence of Arabia*, he gave us his version of T.E. Lawrence, a complicated, tortured, messianic, yes, Christ-like figure, who sought and failed to bring the Arab world into modernity. Lean and Peter O'

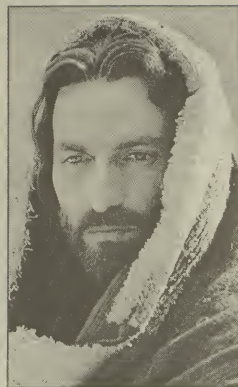
Toole as Lawrence gave us the context to grasp Lawrence's foibles and failures, and the imprint of his myth on history, down to today. *Lawrence* is the thinking-person's epic. Its brilliance transcends the needs for scapegoats, while Gibson's more literal-minded cinema cries out for them.

Gym Jesus

James Caviezel does a stoic job portraying a modern-looking hunk of a Jesus who has the gym body to take a licking and keep on ticking. It's really Hristo Naumov Shopov as an especially conscience-driven Pontius Pilate who steals the acting honors. As the only power standing between Jesus and martyrdom, Shopov's Pilate gives more than a Gray Davis-like stab at placating the mob. But if, as Gibson implies, Pontius Pilate was a truly just man and not the bloodthirsty tyrant found in history, then Christianity would probably have remained a minor cult. Jesus needed to die, and not only for our sins.

While *The Passion of the Christ* is especially problematic for Jewish viewers, it also challenges its queer audience. Gibson's very traditional Catholic view of the meaning of Christ's sacrifice is grounded in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. But, as has become very apparent lately with the revolutionary queer challenge to the institution

of holy matrimony, ours is not the Gospel of the New Testament, but the Gospel according to Matthew Shepard. It's surely no coincidence that the crucifixion-like trappings surrounding Shepard's torture and excruciating death drew part of their power over the American conscience because of a unique mix of Christian imagery reconfigured in the tenets of secular humanism. In some ways, it's our faith versus Mel's. I think we're up to the challenge. ▼



James Caviezel: well-nourished

The passion of Kent Nagano

by Tim Pfaff

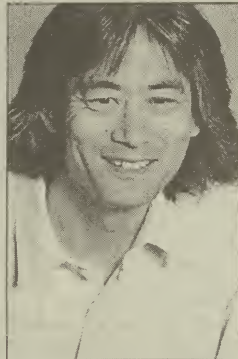
Hard on the heels of the Bay Area's celebration of Kent Nagano's 25th anniversary leading the Berkeley Symphony has come the announcement of his appointment as music director of the Montreal Symphony, one of North America's greatest orchestras, effective in 2006 (the year he also becomes chief conductor of Munich's Bavarian State Opera), but as its musical adviser now.

It all shines a bleary light on the unaccountable neglect of this Bay Area native by the musical Powers That Be along Grove Street. An unfazed Nagano continues exploring major central repertoire and, even more saliently, new and unusual music. Two new Harmonia Mundi CDs with the Deutsches Symphonie-Orchester Berlin (he's also its director) make it clear what Davies Hall audiences are missing. While oratorio is not one of the forms with which Nagano is usually associated, his arresting readings of two rarities — Beethoven's *Christus am Ölberge* (*Christ on the Mount of Olives*) and Schoenberg's *Die Jakobsleiter* (*Jacob's Ladder*) — are both must-hears, important pieces in superlative, sometimes transcendent performances.

Nagano could not have foreseen the topicality of the Beethoven when he recorded it in September 2002, but it reaches the market as the ideal antidote for dazed viewers of Mel Gibson's *The Passion of the Christ*. Beethoven's account of Jesus' mental agony and spiritual self-questioning from the lonely night in the Garden of Gethsemane to his arrest now figures as *The Passion: The Prequel*, and it has the drama, emotional passion and spiritual depth many find lacking in the S&M spectacle of Mel's flinch-flick. (I have not seen it, had the chance to, nor wanted to.)

Beethoven's transitional work comes in the period that includes the first intimations of his forthcoming deafness, his soul-baring tract *Die Heiligenstadt Testament*, the *Eroica* Symphony and *Fidelio*. It's hardly Beethoven at his most cheerful, but neither is it a wallow in personal suffering. Nagano and his artistic forces nail it, so to speak, in a performance of nobility, fine-tuned inner drama, and soulful uplift.

At his first appearance, Jesus views his fate and asks that "the cup" be taken from him, in a



Maestro Nagano: great explorer

recitative and aria that sound like a study for Florestan's broodings at the beginning of *Fidelio's* Act II. Nagano's Jesus isn't some pretty-boy unknown who has to go through it all without poppers but our old friend Plácido Domingo, singing like a god, proving that he could still record a Florestan, and audibly struggling with one of the most whopper colds ever captured on CD. Much as I'd like to say this enhances the feeling of divine suffering, it's merely imposing and mildly distracting, if strangely fascinating. Instead of the blood and torn flesh Mel favors, it's spit and snot that menace Domingo, who deals with them like the champ he is. He husbands his afflicted tenor with astounding vocal self-knowledge, seeking succor in the pianissimos so he can rise to climaxes with undiminished power.

Yet, as ever, this is not a Domingo extravaganza. Luba Orgonasova is radiant as the coloratura Seraph, and Andreas Schmidt as Peter completes the vocal cast. The Berlin Radio Chorus, as angels, soldiers and disciples, matches the soloists in refinement and power. Nagano coaxes a convincingly period-instrument-tinged sound from the orchestra that buttresses its artistic authenticity.

Ladder runs

Die Jakobsleiter, in all respects a greater musical challenge, emerges an even greater achievement. Schoenberg's unfinished work, in its completion by Winfried Zilling, is more daunting but, to willing listeners, a potentially even more rewarding experience.

next page ►

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Accidental geniuses

Creating 'The Wizard of Oz': the dish

by Tavo Amador

Classic Hollywood made many wonderful movies, often accidentally. Warner Bros. initially considered Ronald Reagan and Ann Sheridan for '43's *Casablanca*, and then offered the part of Ilsa to Hedy Lamarr, who declined. During filming, Humphrey Bogart pleaded with his agent to get him out of the picture, certain it would be a setback after the success of *The Maltese Falcon* ('42.) Ingrid Bergman asked director Michael Curtiz which man Ilsa would choose, was told to play it both ways, since no one knew, and two endings were shot.

Things were just as haphazard at Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer (MGM), the studio with "more stars than there are in heaven," ruled by tyrannical Louis B. Mayer. He offered his son-in-law, producer David Selznick, a casting package for *Gone With the Wind* ('39): Joan Crawford as Scarlett; Clark Gable as Rhett; Maureen O'Sullivan as Melanie; and Melvyn Douglas as Ashley. Selznick declined, but agreed to Gable after deciding against his first choice, Gary Cooper.

When Mayer bought the rights to Frank L. Baum's *The Wizard of Oz* ('39), playing the Castro Theatre March 12-25, it had already been filmed as a silent and had enjoyed many stage versions, including one starring a female im-



Toto and 'the fat one,' both beloved.

personator. Because of the large budget for expensive color sequences, elaborate sets, costumes, a big cast, and special effects, he wanted Shirley Temple to play Dorothy. But fellow mogul Darryl Zanuck at 20th Century Fox wouldn't lend his most popular star. Disgusted, Mayer agreed to give the role to "the fat one," as he sometimes called Judy Garland.

Garland had been signed by MGM in '36, after executives saw a short she made with Deanna Durbin, *Every Sunday Afternoon*. The film contrasted Durbin's classical singing with Garland's swing style. Mayer preferred Durbin, but Universal signed her, and she became a huge star in the '40s. By default, Mayer gave Garland a contract.

Arthur Freed, head of MGM's

music department (known as "Freed's Fairies" because of the many gay men working there), believed in Garland. She was cast in several minor yet popular musicals, got good reviews, but failed to impress Mayer. Freed arranged for her to wistfully sing, "You Made Me Love You" to Gable at a studio birthday party, and that made Mayer a believer — she filmed the number for *Broadway Melody of 1938*. Still, he was reluctant to let her star in the lavish and costly *Wizard*, but had no choice.

Meanwhile, Buddy Ebsen, the original Tin Man, developed an allergy to the aluminum-based paint used on his arms and face, and was replaced by Jack Haley, whose son, producer Jack Haley, Jr., would be Liza Minnelli's second husband. The movie took months to complete, and Garland, 16, had to have her breasts strapped down during filming, lest she appear too voluptuous for a 13-year-old. Margaret Hamilton, playing the Wicked Witch of the West, suffered many injuries while shooting her flying scenes.

Producer Mervyn Le Roy wanted to cut "Somewhere Over the Rainbow," insisting it slowed down the action. Freed argued to keep it in, and director Victor Fleming agreed, so it stayed. The



The Wizard of Oz was so costly, it lost a million bucks in its first release.

movie opened to sensational reviews, excellent box-office, and made a star of Garland, who would be one of the studio's most dependable moneymakers for the next decade. But the production costs were so high that the film

lost a million dollars in its initial release (a huge sum at the time), and didn't make a profit until several subsequent reissues. Thanks to repeated television showings, it became the most watched movie in history. ▼

Visitor from Oz

◀ Arts cover

the first choice for Dorothy — that Shirley Temple had been. "Shirley was very talented, but Judy made a better Dorothy," Pellegrini says. "Judy was wonderful, a typical teenager. She was so happy to have her own personal dressing room on wheels." She was also friendly. "During her breaks, she sat on the set and watched us. We were thrilled to be working with her, and she was excited about working with us." An autographed photo inscribed, "To Margaret from your pal Judy" is a treasured possession. She also met Burt Lahr, Jack Haley, Ray Bolger, Margaret Hamilton, Billie Burke and other celebrities, many of whom "brought their children to see the remarkable sets."

Had she read the book or seen any of the many stage productions of Frank L. Baum's story? "No. And none of us had any idea we'd be making movie history."

Did she think Garland would become such a legendary star? "No. Sad the way her life ended. If only she were here to see how people loved her."

She first saw the movie in San Francisco, when she was working on stage at Treasure Island during the 1939 World's Fair. She was asked to appear at "a very grand theatre — I can't recall the name," to promote the film, and stayed to watch it. Seeing herself on screen "was so exciting."

She and the other Little People who played Munchkins stayed in touch over the years, and half a dozen appear at festivals celebrating Oz. "I've had a wonderful life," says Pellegrini. Being part of *The Wizard of Oz* has been an "honor." Pellegrini, a widow, has children and grandchildren. When Oz is on television, one of them points to the screen and says, "That's my Nana." What does she think of the movie after all these years? "It's a great film for everyone. It's perfect and will never be dated."

She's right. ▼

Kent Nagano

◀ previous page

The masterful accompanying notes explain the complexities of its origins and make-up. A reviewer need only note, again, the eerie timeliness of this release. Composed early in Schoenberg's musical (a six-tone scale) and spiritual (proto-mystical) life, it is a deep meditation on the ancient story of God's gift of Israel to the seed of one (Jacob) who tricked his brother out of his birthright to obtain that gift, and struggles under the curse that has resulted. The notes make it sound easier listening than it is (as a point of reference; it inhabits a sound world similar to Berg's *Wozzeck*),

but it's a piece that richly rewards repeated hearings.

Its angel is no bel canto seraph but good old Gabriel, as rendered by baritone Dietrich Henschel, who characteristically crawls right into the core of the forbidding and uncompromising role and, from note one, under the listener's skin. Schoenberg's own text is a dense, unsparing colloquy by spiritual seekers of various ilk and Gabriel, who puts them all in their places, saving his few words of consolation for He Who Is Dying, a role Lorraine Hunt Lieberson was born to sing, here delivered with rare penetration by Salomé Kammer. Orchestral and choral versions of "Friede auf Erde" ("Peace on Earth") frame the oratorio transportingly. ▼

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ART: MIKE THORN

From the small screen to the big house

by Victoria A. Brownworth

What a week for the tube! The big TV news is also the big business news: the conviction of Martha Stewart, doyenne of all things domestic, she who birthed the world in which *Queer Eye*, *Trading Spaces* and *Extreme Makeover* thrive. Stewart was an industry unto herself, and could still be, but her stock plummeted after the verdict, and K-Mart, whose sorry ass she saved with her line when they were in bankruptcy, is planning to drop her name from her *Martha*

Stewart Living line. The domestic diva, a working-class girl from New Jersey, got dumped by her husband and then parlayed her idea for good living and entertaining into a phenomenal industry, becoming the first woman in America to create, own and take public her multi-million-dollar company.

The cult of TV celebrity helped make Martha, and it also helped break her. While other corporate executives (Global Crossing, WorldCom, Tyco, Enron) kept a low profile while robbing their stockholders blind in the biggest corporate frauds in Amer-

ican history, Stewart built a company for her stockholders, wholly in the public eye. The money she is alleged to have made (\$50,000) by selling her stock on an alleged inside tip wasn't even from her corporate account, but from her private account. The transaction, if it occurred as prosecutors say it did, never affected anyone but Stewart herself.

We admit we have always had a perverse love for Martha, who combines '40s Joan Crawford bitchiness with '70s Julia Child craziness. She's a queer delight with her insane little projects and her fantastic recipes, her coterie of gay boys trooping through her show with everything from pet ferrets to antique-card collections. The world Martha Stewart created was indeed a good thing: who doesn't want their life to be a little sweeter, a little neater, a little more beautiful?

Stewart may or may not have acted on an inside tip. The jury thought she did, even though the judge basically told them she didn't. The jury claimed a victory for the "little guy," the folks who had their life savings gutted by people like Ken Lay at Enron. But in fact, none of those men who orchestrated phenomenal fraud is in jail. Rather, Martha Stewart, working-class girl who worked her way to the top, has been made an example of, just in time for Women's History Month. A few months back, she proclaimed both her fear and her innocence to Barbara Walters in an exclusive interview for ABC, and seemed near tears.

Martha gets sentenced in June and will definitely do some prison time. What will happen to her empire, her TV programs, her line of housewares and her magazine is still undecided. We would like to see her TV show go to the big house with her: we know FOX would carry it. Stewart got convicted for being what most Americans want to be, a self-made millionaire and TV celebrity. Be careful what you wish for.

Heart warming

Other TV shockers this week had less national impact, but were shockers nonetheless. For queers,

MARTHA STEWART

jailhouse chili
cooking for a crowd

faux finishes
brighten up drab
cell blocks with color

cozy cots
decorating sheets

prison parties
sprucing up your cell
for those special
holiday occasions

good things
polishing handcuffs
and leg irons

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removing pesty blood
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Here's a parody magazine cover currently making the rounds on the Internet.

the gay marriage debate continues apace, front and center on the evening news, with all the drama of a sweeps-month stunt. We loved seeing the young mayor of

New Paltz, New York, who had taken up the Gavin Newsom banner and started issuing marriage licenses and marrying queer couples (how many queers can there be in that tiny town?), carted off in handcuffs to the

courthouse. We haven't seen such displays of civil disobedience in a few decades, and it gladdens our hearts. Who knows, maybe the *Advocate* or *Out* will actually do a cover story on these guys: straight men sticking their political necks out for queers. The issue's so big it made it into Billy Crystal's Academy Awards opening montage, and has been commented upon endlessly on late-night talk shows. John Kerry, take heed. Ralph Nader could play you like he played Al Gore, and this issue might just be your Achilles heel.

Meanwhile, one queer did wrong on *Survivor All Stars*, which we must admit is the best one ever (and we feel like we already know everyone since they appeared on earlier *Survivors*). Sue Hawk just walked off (didn't have to get voted off) because of the sexual exchange between her and Richard Hatch, the winner and "big naked fag" of the premiere *Survivor*. Sue had been in the final four. Two weeks ago, Sue and Richard were engaged in an altercation while in an immunity challenge, and Richard, naked at the time, jerked his penis off at her. He was voted off that night, for other reasons. But this week, Sue was suffering post-traumatic stress over the event, and blew up at host Jeff Probst over his failure to reprimand Hatch at the time. You never know what will happen on this *Survivor*, and it retains its claim as best reality series on the tube.

Speaking of queer realities, the big reveal came this week on *All My Children*, still the only net-

work show with queer characters in queer relationships. (Cable-wise, we are loving the sexually-charged *The L Word*, also the only queer-themed show on TV with people of color, since UPN's *Girlfriends* just plays at lesbianism, doesn't really take it seriously.) After months of drawing out the search for the killer of Bianca's (Eden Riegel) rapist, we found out this week that Bianca herself had killed the smarmy Michael Cambias after he threatened both to rape her again and take away her baby.

This storyline, despite working hard to address issues of sexual assault, has made us cringe. But it has kept the entire focus of the show on Bianca, which has kept her lesbianism front and center. It has also made for the first-ever lesbian love triangle on TV, and that continues to be fabulous. *Soap Opera Digest*, the industry mag, continues to rate the Bianca-Lena-Maggie triangle as tops. Bianca and Lena remain the fan pick for best couple on AMC, despite having lots of fab het couples to choose from. It's a real phenomenon, and it would never have worked without Riegel's devotion in her portrayal of a fully-realized lesbian character. When does this girl get her much-deserved Emmy?

From the sublime to the slime: the repugnant ad campaign our President has just launched, in which scenes from 9/11 are used in the most cynical manner. Every time we think we've seen the height of hubris from this Administration, some other travesty is revealed. Last weekend, the Bush Administration involved itself in the overthrow of Haiti's fragile democratic government; another 20,000 American troops have just arrived there. This weekend, the debut of Bush's smarmy ad campaign. The events of 9/11 shattered this nation, killed thousands, maimed thousands more and disrupted the lives of almost every American. To use such brutal, emotionally charged moments in the life of a nation to promote your own smug campaign for another four years of destroying this

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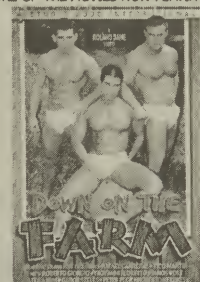
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Listen: the other L word

Indie music from lesbian musicians out on CD

by Gregg Shapiro

Queer as Folk has spawned three soundtracks, so why shouldn't *The L Word* have one? One can only hope that the people who decide what music to use on the series are exploring the rich world of independent lesbian music. From women's music pioneers such as Cris Williamson and Ferron to the current generation like Bitch and Animal, the variety of music is almost boundless.

The erotic acoustic number "Thursday in December" by lesbian singer/songwriter Leah Zicari would sound just right in a romantic scene on *The L Word*. In fact, many of the songs on *Pretty On Thursday* (Goatgirl) would fit

in well on a soundtrack. "Kiss that Boy," a song about how "many girls who once had a lot of pride/are crossing over the other side," musically addresses the phenomenon of lesbians switching teams.

Jen Foster has been getting a lot of media attention for her song "She" from her debut album *Everybody's Girl* (American Garage). Foster sings, "I've heard it said so many times, 'Love is blind' / So why are you staring? / You say that love is all we need, well / Does that apply to me?"

Canadian-based singer/songwriter Lorna Vallings has just released her third studio album, titled *Confidential* (Jabali). A multifaceted performer, Vallings sounds as at ease singing the jazz-inflected "You Are Paris" as she does on the

rockers. If word gets out, Vallings won't have to worry about being kept confidential for long.

From Minnesota to Massachusetts and places in-between, Kellie Lin Knott has been plying her trade in the acoustic folk singer/songwriter scene. On her album *Comfort Food* (kellielin-knott.com), she touches on subjects associated with the genre, including singing in subways and troubled kids, but she does so in a distinctive way. The touching "Salt & Sand" was my favorite track.

Kristi Stremel's name will probably be familiar to anyone acquainted with the current women's music scene. Stremel first came to our attention as a member of the band Frogpond, but has gone on to have a flourishing solo

career. On her second solo disc *Here Comes the Light* (Slewfoot), she continues to churn out country-rock tunes that sound like they would blow the roof off your average live-music club.

Sky writing

Anyone who quotes Janis Ian and poet Mary Oliver in their liner notes automatically scores points with me. *Under the Gypsy Sky* (White Boxer), the fourth disc by Jenn Adams, contains those quotes. Adams sounds a bit like Ian on her song "Some Kind of Angel," and also covers Gillian Welch ("Pass You By") and a baker's dozen original tunes.

Almost all of the women in this column are guitar players, but Mimi Fox takes that skill to the

next level on her instrumental album *She's the Woman* (Favored Nations). One of only a handful of female jazz guitarists, the out Fox combines improvisational inspiration with attention to detail on the 10 songs heard here. Half of the disc consists of Fox originals, including the Latin-tinged "Sosua" and the supremely romantic "Raquel, Mi Amor." Fox covers Lennon and McCartney ("She's a Woman"), Jimmy Van Heusen ("Darn that Dream") and Jimmy McHugh ("On the Sunny Side of the Street.")

Finally, gay men don't have a lock on DJ culture, and Susan Morabito is proof. The renowned lesbian DJ's fancy handwork can be found on *Party Groove: Blue Ball Volume 3* (Centaur). ▼

Art Deco 1910-39

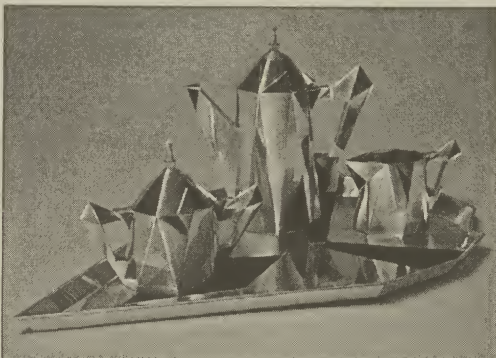
◀ Arts cover

out in slinky '30s finery. A parade of vintage cars kicked off the opening last Saturday, and '30s-era fashion-and-music extravaganzas are planned for Friday nights at the Legion through the run of the exhibition.

What exactly is Deco, and why are so many people inspired by it? Perhaps it's like one judge's definition of pornography: you know it when you see it. Curators from London's decorative arts palace, the Victoria and Albert Museum, and the Fine Arts Museums have tried to put some parameters on the dates and forms of Deco, with varying degrees of success. It is a large, unwieldy animal to wrestle to the ground, although its dates roughly parallel the period between the two world wars. Named for the 1925 Paris *Exposition Internationale des Arts Décoratifs et Industriels Modernes*, the style had its inspiration in the beauty of the machine, with roots in design elements from ancient Egypt, primitive Africa and meso-America. Its objects were defined by luxurious surfaces and materials, but Deco treasures from jewelry to toasters were also available to commoners



Jazz ginger jar (1930), E. Boulton



The Lights and Shadows of Manhattan coffee set (1927), Erik Magnussen

like you and me, in their bakelite and aluminum versions.

Baker place

Movement and music are everywhere in the exhibition, including an entryway black-and-white flick of Josephine Baker dancing topless that really sets a tone for the Jazz Era in Paris. The acoustiguide tour features local cabaret singer Wesla Whitfield reading the narration over a soundtrack of contemporary music ranging from Satie to the Cotton Club.

Famous artists are featured in unexpected roles: Painter Raoul Dufy is represented by some stunning printed fabrics, and a stately fireplace ensemble by sculptor Jacques Lipschitz has been installed in the first lower-level gallery. Joseph Stella's painting of a decidedly un-Deco structure, the Brooklyn Bridge, nevertheless qualifies as Deco-esque in its design. A presentation of haute couture gowns, including a '32 sequined chiffon dress by Coco Chanel and a drop-dead scarlet evening cape ('39) by Elsa Schiaparelli, could make the keepers of the First Ladies' frocks at the Smithsonian drool.

There is a model of Rockefeller Center backed by a vintage film of the Rockettes dancing their little hearts out. It's hard to know if entertainment mimicked design, or if manufacturers and architects mimicked set designers, so entrenched was The Look in the '20s and '30s. Visitors can view one of the most stunning installations in the Legion's central, chapel-like gallery where Sunday-afternoon organ concerts take place. It is the revolving-door foyer to London's Strand Hotel ('30), which lights up and flickers like a Deco jukebox. "Hollywood comes to London," reads the catalog entry describing the shimmering architectural wonder, from a building demolished in '69. Now it has come back to California for this venue only.

To include a Frank Lloyd Wright stained glass window from '19 is a stretch. To call Russell Wright, that harbinger of solid midcentury American kitchenware design, a Deco artist also seems off the mark. The curators

of the Fine Arts Museums have expanded the boundaries still further by showing off some of their barely-related permanent-collection pieces, although a stylized African mask by local sculptor Sargent Johnson is an intriguing inclusion. Certainly, other Johnson sculptures in the Bay Area, including a monumental outdoor frieze at the playing field at George Washington High School, would qualify solidly as Deco.

The splendid V&A catalog features San Francisco's versions of the era prominently, with nods to local '30s masterpieces from 450 Sutter to Diego Rivera's four local murals. Organizers of the exhibition hope that Bay Area residents will be inspired to visit their own Deco treasures, from the Golden Gate and Bay Bridges to the Shell Building (100 Bush) and the buildings of Timothy Pflueger, architect of the PacBell Building on New Mont-

gomery, the Castro Theatre and Oakland's Paramount. It should also be noted that the long-closed New Mission Theater, a Pflueger retrofit from '32, is about to be declared a San Francisco landmark by the Board of Supervisors.

The show is destined to be a huge hit. Special tickets are required for the exhibition, which was the most popular show ever at the V&A, according to FAMSDF Director Harry Parker. The exhibition, which has traveled from the US via Canada, goes on only to Boston from here. ▼

Art Deco 1910-1939 is at the Legion of Honor, 100 34th Ave. in Lincoln Park, through July 4. Info: (415) 750-3600, legionofhonor.com. Lambda at the Legion, Gala benefit & private showing, Apr. 1. Info at lambdalegal.org.

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Image Leather

Lavender Tube

◀ previous page

country hits a new low in American politics.

Child slavery

Countering the Bush ads is the terrific TV campaign now flooding the networks from MoveOn.org. These ads paint the true picture of the Administration's destruction of the economy, the environment and the educational system, focusing on the hideous deficit that is going to yoke our children and grandchild-

dren to a tax burden unimagined in American history. The Super Bowl refused to run them, citing their ban against politically-themed ads to "avoid controversy." Guess they weren't counting on Janet Jackson's breast. (MoveOn.org)

The 13-week series *Kingdom Hospital*, from Stephen King, which premiered last week on ABC, stars Diane Ladd and a host of other superb players. This scariest from the King of Horror is worth TiVoing. Based on King's own medical ordeal a few years back after he was hit by a drunk driver, it'll make you never want

to go to a hospital again.

Finally, for those who have been waiting for what seems like a year (oh wait, it was a year), *The Sopranos* is back on HBO, to give ABC's revamped *The Practice* a run for its goombahs. With new cast members like the super-talented Steve Buscemi, this season promises to be the best ever. The cast, according to Emmy-winning star Edie Falco, isn't even allowed to see their scripts more than a week in advance, to keep the pace a killer. These boys are darker even than the gang in the White House. Well, maybe not. Stay tuned. ▼

Underwear/Jockstraps Every Day All Day!

Jack Off Warehouse
at the Circle J Club

SF's Only Nighttime and Daytime J/O Club
Club open daily 10 a.m. - midnight
J/O Warehouse open daily 12 noon until closing
Mandatory clothes check Tue & Fri eve - Optional Sat & Sun

Circle J Club
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San Francisco 415.474.6995
Metro & BART - Powell Street Station
Admission \$10



OUT & ABOUT

Calendare

by Mark Marmor

Get serious

There's a huge hunger among San Franciscans for honesty, integrity, and truth unadulterated by spin control. I've noticed it lately as I've made my way to various events. It's especially present in the hugely popular literary happenings springing up around town, such as **Kirk Read and Larry-bob's "Smack Dab"** at **Magnet** (see Wednesday), which was packed last time I attended; at our many fine art galleries and alternative performance spaces; at countless live music venues (musicians have been plenty riled up about the Bushies lately); and in our fabulous gay theaters. This seriousness can be felt emanating from **Theatre Rhinoceros** and **New Conservatory Theatre Center**, though I seldom get to those worthy venues because I'm swamped as is, and they're covered by finer critics than I. For years, though, I've been paying attention to what our local queer thespians are up to, thanks in part to well-crafted press releases and reports from the field by the likes of first-rate theatre critic **Richard Dadds**. The tone of the stage fare these days is decidedly more sobering and serious than in happier days of yore. In fact, it's reminiscent of the dark days of the '80s at the height of the AIDS epidemic. Naturally, in the months to come, one would expect to see occasional frivolity and even lapses of good taste in programming, which is perfectly fine so long as the naked men are cute (bears, anorexics, and older gents included!).

Last weekend I dropped in at the **Jon Sims Center for the Arts**, a nonprofit venue for emerging artists in all genres, and once again this local treasure is experiencing flux. **Maier Sabry** has resigned his post as Program Director to devote himself to his work as a playwright, though he'll continue to shepherd the new queer **JSCinema Club**. New Executive Director **Amy Robinson** has her hands full in guiding the organization through perilous economic waters, and she'll need all the help she can get. She's losing the invaluable **David Watkins**, Development and Communications Associate, who will be returning to his native Britain to work on his writing. However Robinson has already brought on new staff to help keep the creative momentum going.

One of the Sims Center's strongest programs is **JSC/Alchemy Emerging Playwrights**, for which **Alan Quismorio** has been booking hot theatrical properties. He led off the announcement of the upcoming season by introducing playwright **Jeffrey Hartgraves** of *A Beautiful Man* fame, who read a rapid-fire comedy piece that felt like a Kaufman-Hart caper updated for the times, ending with a snap of the fingers. Then Quismorio presented two powerhouse performers, first **Jennifer Joy Pawlitschek** who has written and performs a multimedia piece involving quantum physics and her attraction to a certain famous woman tennis pro. Not only is Ms. Pawlitschek strikingly beautiful in her tall bearing, she's highly articulate and bright, and puts on a captivating show. Then came young **Pete Caslavka** with the raw sexy power and convincing toughness of a young Sean Penn, performing in a piece by playwright **Harry Cronin** (*Dark Matter*) revolving around priesthood and pederasty. He'll make you sweat! ▼



Legendary dancer/choreographer and children's book maker Remy Charlip joins an all-star performance revue at 848 Community Space. See Friday.

Fr

'Sing-A-Long Wizard of Oz'

@ Castro Theatre

Opening night: Connie Champagne emcees "Sing-A-Long Wizard of Oz," the new, interactive theatrical film experience from **Outsider Enterprises**, based on the most beloved motion picture of all time, at the Castro theatre March 12-25. Special opening night host Jan Wahl of **KRON** kicks things off, with special guest Margaret Pellegrini, one of the original **Melchies**, on hand, plus Dorothy Gale Interpreter Elaine Horn. Partial proceeds benefit **Frame-line**. On Thursday, March 18, enter the one-night-only "Toto Look-A-Like contest" with guest judges from **SF SPCA** and **PAWS**. \$22 adult; \$15 child Fri & Sat, \$20 (\$12 under 12) Mon-Thru & Sun. 7pm Mon-Sun; 1pm Wed, Sat & Sun matinee. 429 Castro St. Tix: 1-866-468-3399; www.ticketweb.com

'Vita & Virginia'

@ Theatre Rhinoceros

Final performances: The Rhino concludes Eileen Atkins' critically acclaimed *Vita & Virginia*, by directed by Gemma Whelan. In the passion and genius of the letters between Virginia Woolfe and her lover Vita Sackville-West, two revolutionary artists draw a startling connection between unconventional love and the creative inspiration. Their exploration of love, life and literature, documented in letters, is fashioned for the stage in a tender, tragic dialogue. With Carolyn Cox as Virginia Woolfe and Jennifer Grimes as Vita Sackville-West. \$15-\$25. 8pm (7pm Sun). Ends March 13. The Rhino, 2926 16th St. Tix/info: 861-5079; www.therhino.org

'The Little Space That Could' @ 848

Come celebrate 848's amazing 12-year history in "The Little Space That Could," a retrospective art exhibit and performance featuring many of the stars of 848 over a three-day weekend. Tonight: victoria menichol kelly, Kim Epifano, Sonya Smith, Remy Charlip, Harlem Shake Burlesque, Samara and Bill Brent. \$12-\$20 sliding (NOTAFLOP). 8pm, 848 Divisadero St. (at McAllister). Tix/info: 922-2385; email 848@848.org

'Landscapes Renewed' @ Space 743

Opening reception: "Landscapes Renewed," new paintings by Patty Neal, whose works are composed of elements of landscape. By cutting, splicing and rearranging images from photographs she takes of her surroundings, she creates a new non-documentary landscape where color, light and image are juxtaposed to play with mood and

reality. Neal studied painting at the Art Academy SF and at SF State University. She has exhibited widely locally and is currently affiliated with Exploding Head Gallery in Sacramento. Ms. Neal lives in SF and maintains a studio at Hunters' Point Naval Shipyard. 6-8pm. Show runs thru April 28, Wed-Sat, noon-5pm & by appt. 743 Harrison St. Info: 777-9080.

Out/Rage

@ Jon Sims Center

The Jon Sims Center for the Arts presents **Out/Rage**, a multi-disciplinary performance collective of gay and bisexual men, of diverse nationalities and ethnicities, performing "What Color Is Your FAG?" The group engages in theatrical dialogue and artistic inquiry into issues of race and racism within the gay male community. Featuring John Antonides, Marco Austin, Ramon Balsamo, Jason Hancock, Ruven Hannan, Weihsau Lau, Paul Loper, Antoine Moore, Jamez Smith, and Niels Teunis. 8pm. 1519 Mission St. (btwn South Van Ness & 11th St). Tix/info: 554-0402; www.jonsimsctr.org

7th Annual Anarchist Café

The Anarchist Café Coordinating Committee presents the "7th Annual Anarchist Café," celebrating seven years of anarchist fun-raising, community spirit and education. Vegan dinner. DJs. Indoor performance area including live music, guest speakers, spoken word/poetry. A benefit for the Bay Area Anarchist Bookfair and political prisoner Sherman Austin. \$5-\$15 sliding (NOTAFLOP). 6pm-late. 225 Portrero Ave. (at 16th St).

Continuum's 'Off the Wall' @ BUILD

Group Art Exhibition & Sale: "Off the Wall," featuring two and three-dimensional artwork by the artists from Continuum's Creative Art Program. The exhibition is titled "Off the Wall" because at 7pm people will be able to pull artwork off the wall, pay for it and take it home the same day. Featuring works by Jerry Marshall, Walter Guerra, Daniel Miller, Andreas Herrera, Andrew Hicks and many more. 6-9pm. BUILD, 483 Guerrero St. (near 17th St). Info: 863-3041.

Canyon Sam's

'Capacity to Enter'

@ Unitarian Center

San Francisco Zen Center's fourth annual lecture/workshop series "Body, Breath, Mind" presents solo performance theater artist Canyon Sam in her show *Capacity to Enter*, described as a hilarious story of what happens when desire, identity and commitment pull in opposite directions. What happens when a Buddhist seeker and radical feminist finds passions, spiritual practice and politics at odds? Sam's characters include a Zen master, a robust Italian chef, a hip hop poet, a bewildered Chi-

nese American mother, a Tibet trekker, and a 1970s Marxist radical, among others. \$16. 7:30pm. 1187 Franklin St. (at Geary). Tix/info: 863-3133; sfzc.org

Rebeca Mauleón and Round Trip

@ YBCA Forum

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts presents a one-night grand finale concert by YBCA Meet The Composer Resident Rebeca Mauleón and her Round Trip Ensemble, culminating her three-year residency at the Center. Mauleón weaves a tapestry of poetry, world music and spoken word in the epic piece *Telling Stories: Singing Life*, which incorporates the oral histories of migrants in the US, plus new works from her recently released CD. \$18 regular; \$10 senior/student/Center members. 8pm. Tix/info: 978-2787; www.YerbaBuenaArts.org

Elliot Anderson's

'Cams' @ Gallery 16

Opening reception: Elliot Anderson's 'Cams' will be exhibiting the work at the opening reception. DJ'd by Cleff Hengst & Scott Hewicker. Gallery 16, 1616 16th St., 3rd floor (at Kansas). Free. 6-9pm. In addition, on April 2 at 7pm, there'll be a reading by authors from the 'Cams' Book Project. Info: urbandigitalcolor.com; arts.ucsf.edu/faculty/anderson/printwork/cams/content.html

Sat

'A Man of No

Importance' @ NCTC

Opening night: The New Conservatory Theatre Center presents the West Coast Premiere of the musical *A Man of No Importance*, staged directed by George Quick with music direction by Barry Koron. The book is by Terrence McNally, music by Stephen Flaherty and lyrics by Lynn Ahrens. Based on the 1994 Albert Finney film of the same title, *A Man of No Importance* tells the tender story of Alfie Byrne, a middle-aged Dublin bus conductor who lives with his unmarried sister. A modest and quiet man, Alfie has always found his greatest satisfaction and identity as the artistic director of St. Imelda's Players, a church-based amateur theatrical group. But it is 1964 and the world is changing. Alfie's little theatre is no longer a safe place from the tumultuous world outside. A passionate fan of Oscar Wilde, Alfie is determined to stage a version of *Salome* despite the objections of church authorities. In the process of fighting for the play, Alfie is finally forced to confront his own sexuality and realizes he must take a stand in the world. Featuring Arthur Scappatucci as Alfie. \$18-\$28. Thu-Sat 8pm; Sun. 2pm. Q&A w/Terrence McNally following March 21 performance. NCTC, 25 Van Ness Ave. Near Market St. Tix/info: 861-8972; www.nctcfs.org

'Dress Up/Dress Down'

@ Montclair Women's Cultural Arts Club, Oakland

"Dress Up/Dress Down," a collection of stories told through outlandish dresses, dance and music. A multimedia event conceived, choreographed and performed by Cherie Carson, with special musical guests SoVoSo (a cappella ensemble doing rhythmic original jazz, gospel world, R&B). Highlights: The Dress of Eleven Yards with music by Bill and John Storch of Lake Worth, Florida. A cuentista weaves a tale of family history, Hispanic culture and the overcoming of life's challenges symbolized in a beautiful dress made of eleven yards of fabric. *Just for Kicks* (premiere) is a humorous look at growing up in Texas and trying to "fit in" as a Drill Team member, trying to act and look just like 50 other girls. And Song, a "sculpture" dress made out of aluminum and brass. Built by Ela Lambini, the dress is also a musical instrument, and the dance a play of sounds. This show has been crafted to incorporate



Demented tranny Suppositori Spelling joins Heklina and crew for a tribute to the Goddess of Goth, the Princess of Punk.... It's "Siouxie Night"! See Tuesday.

the elegance of The Montclair Women's Cultural Arts Club and is presented in gallery setting. Pre-show festivities include viewing the exhibition of unique dresses, desserts by Jeanne Chang, refreshments by Peets Coffee and Tea. \$15 per/; \$10 children/seniors. 8pm. Also on Sun., March 14 at 4pm. 1650 Mountain Blvd., Oakland. Tix/info: 510-587-0770; www.movingout.org

'The Little Space That Could' @ 848

Night 2 of "The Little Space That Could," a retrospective art exhibit and performance featuring many of the stars of 848 over a three-day weekend. Tonight: Carol Queen, Joanna Moody, Doug von Koss, Rachel Shaw & Leslie Seifers, Tracy Vogel, Scott Wells, and Matthew Simmons (Peggy L'eggs). \$12-\$20 sliding (NOTAFLOP). 8pm. 848 Divisadero St. (at McAllister). Tix/info: 922-2385; email 848@848.com

'Anarchist Book Fair'

@ County Fair Bldg.

Bound Together Anarchist Collective Book Store presents the ninth annual Bay Area Anarchist Book Fair, the largest Book Fair of its kind in North America returns with more than 60 vendors, cafés and an impressive roster of speakers. Featured speakers this year include famed journalist and author Alexander Cockburn, writer and activist Starhawk, dyke singer and novelist Lynn Breedlove, queer poet and musician Tim'm T. West, Agent Apple of the Biotic Baking Brigade, muralist Susan Greene and authors Sean Sullivan, Jeffery St. Clair, Katya Komisaruk and Sun Frog. Admission free. 10am-6pm. SF County Fair Building, Golden Gate Park near Ninth Ave. & Lincoln Way. Info: 431-8355.

SF Hiking Club

@ Oat Hill Mine Trail

Join other outdoors lovers for an Oat Hill Mine Trail hike. The route has many panoramic views of the Napa Valley from the precipitous contours of the Palisades. Moderately strenuous 8-mile hike with 1,750-ft. elevation gain. Meet 8:30am under the large Safeway sign at Market & Dolores. Info: 487-6410; www.sfhiking.com

Queer Ballroom

@ Synergy School

Tango and swing at the "Queer Ballroom Party." 7pm Argentine Tango Lesson; 8pm Balboa Swing Lesson; 9pm-midnight dance party to a variety of music. \$10 (\$5 under 21). Info: 305-8242; www.queerballroom.com

'Marriage of Figaro'

@ Legion of Honor

Donald Pippin's Pocket Opera presents Mr. Pippin's English language translation of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's hilarious tale of disguise, intrigue and true love in which the servants finally come out on top. *The Marriage of Figaro*. Directed by Jane Hammett. The further comic tales of Figaro, first introduced in Rossini's 1816 comic opera *The Barber of Seville*. Figaro's master, Count Almaviva, is now married to his love Rosina but has tired of her

charms and pursues the affections of her maid Susanna, who is affianced to Figaro. Starring Marcelle Drinkers, Heidi Moss, Katherine Grown, Cari McAskill, Todd Donovan, Clifton Romig, and Sean White. \$30 adv; \$32 door (\$27 senior). 2pm. Florence Gould Theatre, Legion of Honor. Tix: 972-8934; ticketweb.com. Info: www.pocketopera.org

Dandelion

Dancetheater

@ Jon Sims Center

Dandelion Dancetheater in association with the Jon Sims Center for the Arts presents "Re-Visioning the Body in Dance #3" in which Dandelion Dancetheater co-director Eric Kupers brings together a vibrant group of innovative dance artists investigating the body from diverse perspectives, examining size, race, disability and age in motion. Featuring the work of Dandelion, Della Davidson/Jane Schorrenberg, Vitali Kononov, Bruce Curtis, Element Dance Theater, Sarah Luella Baker, John Killacky and Navarete x Kajiyama Dance Theater. Discussion about body politics and dance to follow. A benefit for Night March (Dandelion's Undressed Project culmination). Contains nudity. \$10-\$100 sliding. 8pm. 1519 Mission St. Tix/info: 554-0402; www.jonsimsctr.org; www.dandeliondancetheater.org

'Fauxgirls!'

@ Marlena's

En Drag creator Victoria Secret and the fabulous Alexandria host *Fauxgirls!* in a night of glamour and camp featuring the blazing talents of Bliss, Angelica Devorax, Mini Minerva, David, Daffney Deluxe, Nikki Starr and special guest stars. Never a cover at Marlena's! Showtime 10pm. 488 Hayes St. (at Octavia). Info: 864-6672; www.sfdrag.com

Harvey Milk Civil

Rights Academy

Auction

The Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy invites you to their 7th annual silent auction featuring bid items such as hotel, spa and restaurant certificates, yoga and Pilates classes, stores certificates, wine, children's art and works by local artists, entertainment, Giants' games and other sports events. Great gifts for newlyweds. Many items donated from local merchants in the Castro. Live music and delicious baked goods. 12 noon-4pm. Harvey Milk Civil Rights Academy, 4235 19th St. (at Collingwood). Free parking. Info: (415) 241-6276. Preview auction items at geocities.com/harveymilkaction

Contemporary Crafts Market

@ Fort Mason Center

For 13 years, the Contemporary Crafts Market has offered to the public some of the nation's best, most unique, functional, decorative and wearable art at San Francisco's Fort Mason Center. The show returns this year on March 13 & 14, and will include meticulously made crafts for display and sale, handpicked by a jury based on creativity and quality.



Eric Kupers directs Dandelion Dancetheater in "Re-Visioning the Body in Dance #3" at Jon Sims Center. See Saturday.

ty. Featuring more than 250 artists presenting hand-thrown ceramics, intricate jewelry, unique glassware, vintage-inspired textiles and wearable art, wood and glass furniture, leather and metal creations and more. Check out the fine cloisonné enamels from Linda Lundell of Long Beach; the "house jewelry" — beautifully crafted door bells, dimmer switches, switch plates, and sconces — from Kevin Loughran, based in Gaviota (near Santa Barbara); and the sophisticated handbags and accessories from Martin Zalud (of Martin Zalud and Alicia Zaludova), a saddler who incorporates curves in his creations to evoke movement. A \$500 shopping spree will be drawn at the show on Sat., March 13. Fine craft door prizes will be awarded on Sun., March 14. Entry forms available at the door. No purchase necessary to enter drawings and winners need not be present to win. Participating artists are selected based on creativity and quality by a jurying process. All items in the show must be made by hand. 10am-6pm in the Festival Pavilion at Fort Mason Center (at Marina Blvd. & Buchanan St.). Free parking at the Marina Green Lot with free shuttle service. Valet parking also available in front of the Festival Pavilion. Admission \$6 adults, free for children 12 and under. Info: (415) 995-4925; www.CraftSource.org

GLAAD/BACW Marriage Equality Workshop

@ The Center
Same-sex couples who are married or plan to marry are invited to attend this free workshop sponsored by GLAAD (Gay & Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation) and BACW (Bay Area Career Women). Learn how to effectively access and engage the media in your local communities. Become more effective spokespeople for marriage equality. 1-5pm. SF LGBT Center, 1800 Market St. Info: 865-5555, RSVP to Eddie Gutierrez at 323-634-2011; email gutierrez@glad.org

BCEF Awards Dinner @ ARC

Sandy "Mama" Reinhardt Presents the 4th annual Breast Cancer Emergency Fund Awards Dinner in memory of Faith Fancher. Produced by Ray Tilton. Entertainment. Silent auction (with a twist). \$60 per person. 7:00pm Cocktails, 8:00pm Dinner. ARC, 1500 Howard St. Tix: 863-4125; www.frantix.net

'Makeup 102'

@ Kryolan
Lecture/demonstration: Kryolan Corp. Professional Makeup presents "Makeup 102 (intermediate)," taught by Marvin Westmore. Learn the elements of highlight and shadow, corrective makeup, principles of lighting, overview of the makeup kit, and how to make the perfect portfolio. \$300. 8:30am refreshments; 9am class starts. Kryolan, 132 Ninth St. Info/registration: 863-9684; www.kryolan.com

Sun 14

'The Little Space That Could' @ 848

Night 3 of "The Little Space That Could," a retrospective art exhibit

and performance featuring many of the stars of 848 over a three-day weekend. Tonight: Krista DeNio, Thea Hillman, Kathleen Hermsdorf, Tara Brandel, Cooper Wimmim, Fakir & Cleo, and Krissy Keefer. \$12-\$20 sliding (NOTAFLOP). 8pm. 848 Divisadero St. (at McAllister). Tix/info: 922-2385; email 848@848.com

SF Hiking Club @ Pt. Reyes

Join other outdoors lovers for a Pt. Reyes Hike. Climb Mt. Wittenberg and then continue to Sculptured Beach for lunch. It's a strenuous 14-mile hike with a 2,900-ft. elevation gain. Meet 8:30am under the large Saweway sign at Market & Dolores. Info: 487-6410; www.sfhiking.com

Golden Gate Men's Chorus Benefit @ Eagle Tavern

The Golden Gate Men's Chorus will be hosting their Annual Beverage Benefit at the Eagle Tavern. Auction & raffle drawing with fab prizes including: 2 Nights Stay at Terrazzo Resort in Palm Springs; Dinner for 6 created & cooked in your home by Spencer O'Meara (Main Chef, Paragon & Claremont Hotel); 2 Nights Stay at The Russian River Resort; VIP pass to Harry Denton's Starlight Room w/free bottle of Champagne; dinner date with Mr. Bear SF. Plus theatre passes, CDs, concert tix, free haircuts, massages and more. 10% of the monies earned from raffle will be donated to AIDS Emergency Fund. Jim Bolton of the Eureka Barbershop will be cutting hair at the event. Eagle Tavern, 398 12th St. Info: www.ggmc.org

'Thieves in the Temple: The Reclaiming of Hip Hop' @ Oakland Box Theater

Aya de León performs *Thieves in the Temple: The Reclaiming of Hip Hop: A One-Woman Hip Hop Theater Show*. Written by Aya de León. Directed by Ellen Sebastian-Chang. Choreographed by Amara Tabor. Aya meets and embodies colorful hip hop characters along her personal journey from teenage fan to center stage, from victim to visionary. Reception with the Artist to Follow Performance. Presented in celebration of Women's History Month 2004. \$10. 7pm. Also March 15, 21, 26 (8pm), 27 (2 & 8pm), & 28 (2 & 7pm). 1928 Telegraph Ave. (near 19th St. BART). Tix: 510-451-1932; ticketweb.com

Stephen Funk Benefit @ Humanist Hall, Oakland

Stephen Funk Benefit: Imprisoned for refusing to fight the Iraq War, half-Filipino gay former Marine Corps reservist and local anti-war hero returns from six months in a North Carolina military prison. 3-5pm: Reception and BBQ. Meet Stephen Funk, find out about local counter-recruitment efforts, help gear up for the March 20 "End the Occupation!" global actions, and throw some tofu and/or meat on the fire. 5-7pm: Dinner program with Stephen Funk, first public Iraq War military resister; Stephen Collier, Stephen Funk's lawyer; Tommi Avicelli Mecca, radical queer performer/poet; 1991 Gulf War GI refusniks Aimee Allison, Azania Howson, Erik Larsen and Jeff Paterson. 7:30-9pm film screening of *The Fourth World War*. A benefit for

Not in Our Name — proceeds help cover expenses of Stephen's defense; co-sponsored by the Stephen Funk Legal Defense Committee. \$10 - \$20 donation (NOTAFLOP); free admission for AWOL troops). Humanist Hall, 390 27th St., Oakland. Info: 510-444-6466.

Mon 15

Ellen Goodman @ Herb Theatre

City Arts & Lectures presents journalist/author Ellen Goodman, interviewed on stage by Cynthia Gorney. For more than 25 years, Goodman's nationally syndicated column has been focusing her lens on contemporary American life, revealing what makes us tick, laugh, cry and sometimes fume. She is the author of seven books and collections. Her readership is largely mainstream, but she has a devoted queer following. \$18.50. 8pm. Herb theatre, 401 Van Ness Ave. Tix: City Box Office; 392-4400.

Tue 16

'Fling' @ El Rio

"Fling," a new weekly queer and trans club night (every Tuesday). All of the fun, with No Strings Attached. DJs Garcia Sinclair & Nafis spin Hip-Hop, Brazilian, Old Skool and Neo-Soul, Deep House, World Beat and more. Drink Specials: \$2 Margaritas; \$2.50 Ace Pear Cider. Free entry. 8pm-12am. 3158 Mission St. (at Cesar Chavez). Info: 282-3325; www.elrios.com

'Siouxie Sioux Night' @ Trannyshack

Demented tranny Suppositori Spelling joins Heklima to co-host a salute to the Goddess of Goth, the Princess of Punk, Siouxie Sioux of the late great Siouxie and the Banshees. Starring Syphilis Diller, Giamamore, Vinsantos, Fauxnique, Kennedy and Jordan L'Moore. \$7. 10pm-3am (show at midnight). 9th & Harrison. Info: www.heklina.com

Wed 17

'Radar Reading Series' @ Main Library

Michelle Tea hosts emerging and underground writers reading and performing new work. Featuring Tennessee Jones, Carolyn Riccardi, Trina Robbins and Karl Soehnlein. Free. 6pm. Main Library, Lower Level, Latino/Hispanic Community Meeting Room, 100 Larkin St. (at Grove).

'Smack Dab' @ Magnet

"Smack Dab," an open mic (every Third Wednesday) hosted by Kirk Read and Larry-bob Roberts, making the Castro safe for performance again. Special guest readers Jon Ginoli and Lauren Wheeler. Bring five minutes of words, music, comedy or miscellany. All ages and genders welcomed and adored. Ginoli is guitarist, singer, songwriter with the band Pansy Division for over a decade. He's

written about almost every imaginable queer-related topic in his songs. For Smack Dab he's going to read from his diaries about touring with the band. Lauren Wheeler is a recovering slam poet who has twice competed at the National Poetry Slam. She has featured throughout the Bay Area, in Los Angeles, Miami Beach, and at Cornell University where she studied English Literature. Her work has appeared in *Lodestar Quarterly* and *Other Magazine*, and she has self-published two chapbooks, *anti-matter* and *my-gration*. Free! 7:30 Sign-Up; show at 8pm. Magnet, 4122 18th St. (btwn Castro & Collingwood). Info: www.magnetst.org

Joe Kort

@ A Different Light Bookstore

A Different Light Bookstore presents author Joe Kort, discussing his book *10 Smart Things Gay Men Can Do to Improve Their Lives* in a special workshop that has proven invaluable to hundreds of gay men Joe has helped in his 16 years of individual, couples and group therapy. Kort's empowering book provides positive steps gay men can take to identify and overcome self-defeating behaviors and move toward a healthier and more rewarding life. Free. 7:30pm. Info: 431-0891; adlbooks.com

Thu 18

Laura Flanders' 'Bushwomen' @ Brava Theater

Publication/performance party for *Bushwomen: Tales of a Cynical Species* by Laura Flanders, host of the popular "Your Call" radio call-in show (heard weekdays 10am on KALW 91.7FM). Join Flanders and local celebs for a publication performance party and fundraiser. *Bushwomen* is an investigation into the women in Bush's cabinet and inner circle. See scenes from the novel *Sisters* (Signet, 1981) by Lynne Cheney (wife of Dick) adapted for the stage. Cheney's breathy, gothic novel celebrates condoms, free love and lesbian romance in 19th-century Wyoming. Plus: Hear Nat'l Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice's father, John W. Rice, rail against the Vietnam War in a 1971 speech. \$15 to benefit Friends of KALW. 8pm. Book signing follows event. 2789 24th St.

WANNA SUBMIT?

Send your calendar event listings to:

Mark Mardon
Out & About
Bay Area Reporter
395 Ninth Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

Deadline is the Friday before issue date.

Meet a friend at Badlands

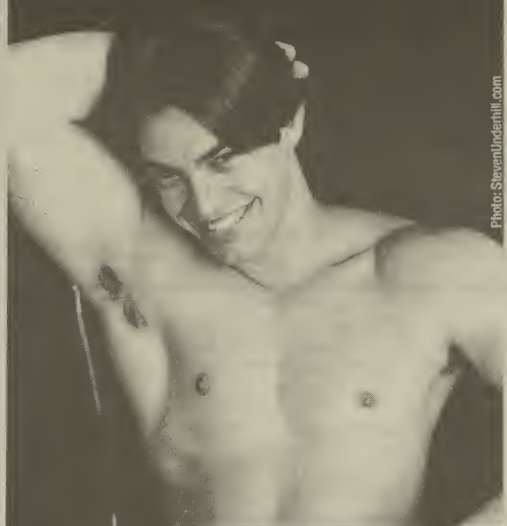


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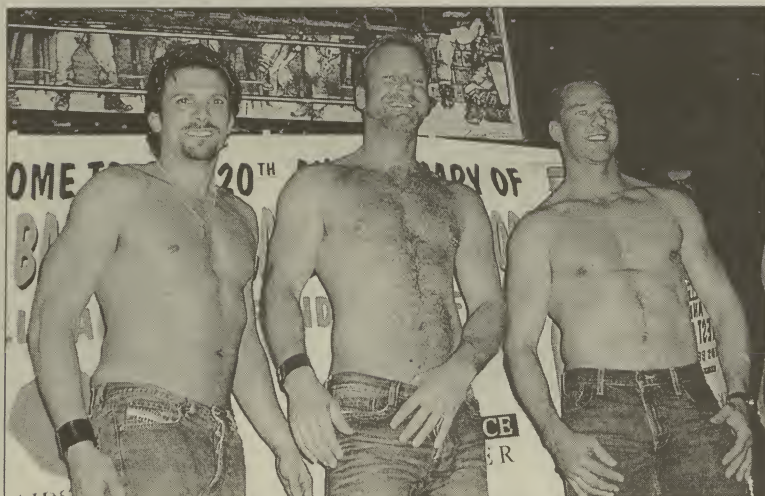
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Three men qualified in Round 7 of the Bare Chest Calendar contests last Thursday, March 4 at the Powerhouse. Left to Right: Scott Nichols, Dan Lauten and Dale St. Pierre. The next contest is Thursday, March 18.

Climb aboard IML 2004

by Mister Marcus

The long trek to the IML 2004 playground has almost been reached. Last weekend, Mr. San Diego Leather 2005 Adam Latham, (competing at IML 2005) was chosen after a week-long Leather Pride week in that city, and in Tulsa, Oklahoma, Ryan Setzkorn won the title in a weekend that featured IML John Pental and IML Tammie Nelson among the judging panel.

There are a few more contests on the agenda, including Mr. Los Angeles Leather 2004 taking place on Saturday, March 27 with four days of fun and frolic, the contest itself, and a street fair.

In Chicago, the Mr. Chicago Leather title is being revived for the weekend of April 9-11 at the Touché Bar.

From coast to coast, IML 2004 contenders are boning up in preparation for the competition in Chicago. The smart ones are digesting the contents of Guy Baldwin's The Leather Contest Guide and Jill Carter's Leather Titleholder Manual, both very useful tomes for anyone competing at any level. You may have a problem obtaining Ms. Carter's book as it is out of print and a re-print date has not yet been determined.

Fundraisers are being held for travel and other expenses that contestants need and the lucky

ones have sponsors or producers that alleviate the air fare and hotel fees. Nevertheless, it is never enough to obtain that "must have" leather gear.

The judges will be observing throughout the weekend so everyone will be on their best behavior. The main thing to remember is "be yourself", refrain from late night events, get rest and be approachable. If you don't personally already know the judges, you'd best bone up on who they are. It is up to YOU to seek out the judges, not the other way around.

This year's panel is very astute, sharp and knowledgeable. They are receiving almost weekly reports (with photos) on you and are eager to meet you. Most of them will be at ABW in April so if you haven't met them, that's the place to be if your budget allows. ABW is one of the best leather weekends around and an ideal time to be in Washington, DC with its cherry blossom time and spring is in the air.

Quite a few notables will be in attendance in Chicago for the revival of Mr. Chicago Leather competition at the Touché Bar the weekend of April 9-11. C.L.A.W. in Cleveland the weekend of April 30-May 2 will see truckloads of leather title holders for a big fund raising blowout.

And by the way, if you're competing at IML 2004, you'd best get your application forms in as soon as possible. None of that last-



Here's Mike Burke, Mr. Cleveland Leather 2004, chosen two weekends ago. He advances to compete at IML 2004 in Chicago in May.

minute stuff! The paper work involved is voluminous so either you or your sponsor(s) should make it a top priority to get your application forms in and properly filled out.

Calendar keeps on going

Last Thursday, March 4, the 7th round of the SOMA Bare Chest Calendar got underway at the Powerhouse with three hunks

next page ►

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Week of March 11-15

In Munich, Germany, Mr. Bavaria Leather 2004 will be chosen during a five-day leather extravaganza.

Saturday, March 13

Mr. Kentucky Leather at Club 141 in Lexington. Breast Cancer Emergency Fund Dinner in San Francisco at the Arc.

40th Birthday party for Bob Boudreau, owner of the Hartford Eagle at Chez Est in Hartford.

Women's Play Party at The Citadel with doors open from 2000 until 0111. Admission is only \$20. Regiment of the Black & Tans in Los Angeles host their Mr. Regiment Leather competition.

Sunday, March 14

Alameda County Leather Corps presents "Lucky In Leather," a benefit at the Turf Club in Hayward, from 1600 to 2000, and featuring "Fist the Lep-

rechaun," strippers, raffles, etc.

Wednesday, March 17

Underwear Buddies at 933 Harrison tonight. You know the rules - no skid marks allowed! At Daddy's, Shan Carr's fabulous DVD will debut on TV screens. See it. Love it. Buy it.

Thursday, March 18

Round 8 of the SoMa Bare Chest Calendar 2005 at the Powerhouse at 2130 tonight. Got it? Flaunt it! For charity.

Weekend, March 19-21

Big bootblacking weekend at Fife's up at the Russian River — the Pacific West Bootblack Weekend. Cost is \$225 for the whole package which includes two nights at Fife's Resort, contest, auctions, raffles, play parties. Individual tickets for various events will be available.

POLKSTRASSE

Hello, again!

by Sweet Lips

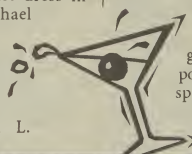
Okay, gang, Yours Truly, Sweet Lips, is on the road to recovery after my recent unfortunate accident with a broken hip — so I'll again be giving you all of the gossip!

The Portland Party fundraiser on Feb. 27 for the Education Fund was a big hit, thanks to our own SF Emperor XVI A.N. Steven Rascher, who raised almost \$2,500! Steve, you do better every year, and even in a wheelchair I had a wonderful time, thanks to the wonderful Empress Mame of Portland. L. James did a great job with the music and the videotapes — thanks, honey!

Attached is a photo L. James took at the Club Rendez-Vous last Feb. 7 when the reigning Emperor and company stopped by on their bus, crashing Suzie Wong's annual Chinese New Year Party! It was "Emperor's Night Out," when he must dress in drag. Yes, it's Michael Parsons to the left of Suzie in the pic, or, as she was known that evening: "Something-I-for-got" LaTwat. Call L. James at 309-CLUB if you want a copy of this photo. Suzie raised \$500 for the Asian Well-



Emperor Michael Parsons, left, aka S-I-F LaTwat, and Suzie Wong



Cocktail Hour

ness Center. Brava, darling! Last Friday, a group of us met at the popular Cinch Saloon to spend some time with that crazy Ms. Ronnie Lynn, and had much fun! Thanks, Ms. Lynn, you're a hoot! Mr. Lee-Ona's (formerly the

Kokpit, for those of us ancient enough to remember) has become one of the most popular bars in the Tenderloin/Polkstrasse neighborhood. A good time to check it out is when Empress Pushy Phyllis is holding court there.

I should soon be getting around without my wheelchair. I hope. Thanks to all for the get well cards! There are a lot of wonderful people around. Love to all. ▼

Good Bye, Lenin!

◀ page 33

ingly staged that he forgot he was acting.

"It was the atmosphere of seeing hundreds of extras, of people demonstrating, then these policemen and soldiers. Because there is so much going on, you're forgetting the cameras. I was really scared when the guys were attacking me. For a second I felt, 'Oh, God, it's real!'"

Told by her doctors that his mother may never awaken from her coma and any great shock could kill her, Alex decides that learning about the fall of the wall and the end of her beloved East Germany might be that very shock. He sets upon a plan to con-

vert her tiny bedroom into a living museum to the GDR, complete with videotaped propaganda newscasts, shabby clothes and "comfort food" such as his mother's favorite brand of Communist-made pickles. Alex starts ordering his sister, her West German boyfriend and his own Russian girlfriend around like soldiers, insisting that they maintain the ruse. The effect is a kind of satire-enriched slapstick not seen since Billy Wilder's frenetic ode to Coca Cola imperialism, *One, Two, Three*.

Director Becker explains why he chose Bruhl to play Alex. "The other actors that I saw didn't convince me that they'd do the stuff for their mother. But he convinced me because it's his natural

way, although he's not a mother's son. I think he doesn't even have to act this."

Bruhl, who is rapidly becoming Germany's most sought-after young leading man, preceded *Good Bye, Lenin!* with a film about a young boxer. "I was so proud because I was very fit. The other boxers were forced to hit me with 10% of their strength because of insurance reasons, and that gave me a great feeling about boxing, because whenever I was fighting with them, I won! And I could do 100%. I remember one Turkish guy that I boxed told me that I shouldn't punch him so hard, because he got a headache." ▼

Opens Friday.

Mister Marcus

◀ previous page

going for it. Judges Tyrone Smith, Ken Ferraris, Didier Carmognolle, Troy Anicete and a straight woman bare chest contest "fan" Jen, faced off with Scott Nichols, Daje St. Pierre and Dan Lauten in another outrageous scenario that had the crowd in stitches. When the votes were counted, all three contenders landed a spot for the final competition. The next round (8) is set for Thursday, March 18th. If you've got it flaunt it. Do it for charity, dudes!

Breast Cancer Dinner

The big Breast Cancer Emergency Fund dinner is this coming Saturday, March 13th at the Arc (11th & Howard) and besides a scrumptious dinner, silent auction, raffles and entertainment, you can do your bit to support this worthy cause. Remember both men and women can get breast cancer. You can obtain tickets by surfing to www.frantix.net and do it today! See you all next week! ▼

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PARTING GLANCES

Castro Theatre Sat. 1/10

Talked briefly at concession stand before movie "Devot". You: slim, medium height, dark (Tamil? Bengali?) Me: older, short beard, glasses. Would like to meet, talk more. ☎ 71049

Troy: EROS 1-11-04

Carlos with the intense brown eyes wants to see more of you...If you're interested. ☎ 71050

Danny 1/31 On The Phone

I was at Holiday Inn. You're 6'3" Ital. Blk Hr/Gr Eyes. "Driving me crazy" contact me please (Let's Meet) ☎ 71086

Castro & Market Bus Stop 2/15

Hello! It was between 4:30-5:30 on Sunday. I was wearing a "sleazy" black suit w/cap. You made 3 turns to look back. You: thin bod & good looks! ☎ 71099

24 Divisadero Muni Bus, So. Bound

You, tall blonde, slightly stocky, dark-gm coat, red pin stripe long sleeve shirt, Stacey's canvas bag, we sat opposite each other. Me: tall, br hair, glasses, moustache, goatee, olive jacket, light bl jeans, 2 Trader Joe's shopping bags. We glanced at each other several times, smiled, said "Hi"! Wish I had said more, exchanged ph #'s. Perhaps a drink or coffee. ☎ 71100

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

Positives Unle!

Silver Fox Top, 19 yrs positive and healthy, seeks positive bottom leading resourceful life filled with integrity. Deep throats challenged with erotic butt play. ☎ 71072

Need Service? 40-60? Mornings?

Seeking oral top who needs & appreciates excellent service. I'm attractive, clean cut, 40, HIV+. You: 40-60 stocky to heavy & really loves good head. No drugs BS. I want to take good care of you. ☎ 71080

Mature Muscular Man

50-60, single, HIV-neg, is what I seek for dating in S.F. I'm Asian, HIV-neg, 5'7", 150#, grates, smooth 40" chest, 30" waist, NS, ND. ☎ 71081

Black Cock Wanted

White guy, 55, great shape, 6'1", wants to suck on a black cock every night. Will treat it and you really good. ☎ 71082

Friendship And More...

Horny Latino "Brazilian" 38, 57, 142lbs, white muscular lean body, I'm seeing guy 25-40 who knows what you want. Size, race unimportant. ☎ 71101

HORNEY-DON is Back & HOT As Ever

Hey! all you studs out there, looking to have a great time, well don't hesitate. I will make you feel so good physically and emotionally. Requirements (Honesty) if you are naturally honest, well, you have a new friend and maybe more. 42 yo, shaved head, hazel eye's 5'8", HOT!HOT!HOT! Leave message. ☎ 71102

Poz On Peninsula

GWM, 45 yrs old, 6'2", 205lbs. Love walks on beach, movies, drives along coast, quiet times at home, non smoker, not into "gay" scene, hope to hear from you. ☎ 71110

GJM Into Heavy, Intense j/o, d/t, c/b

worship, oral, drinking/partying, your place, PM only. Age, size, race, looks unimp't to both of us. ☎ 71111

Deaf, Jewish white male, 40's, 6', 174#,

top seeking black/latin/asian males, 20s-40s, masculine, in good shape, and skinny to football build types for hot times and adventures! ☎ 71112

Top Seeks Bottom w/Facial Hair

8" cut, works magic on supple butts. Be honest, be real, for experienced ride toward lifetime of ecstasy; be poz. ☎ 71123

Attention Huge Nipped Guys

I'm muscular, healthy, clean, 46 yrs. Wish es to date on a reg basis a muscular guy w/huge protruding nipples. I guarantee my mouth & attention will satisfy you. Pls serious only. Thank you! ☎ 71124

Athletic Skater Guy

39, 5'7", 156#, healthy, cute, slim, versatile, GLM legal resident: ISO slim, masc. guy GWM/GLM, hanging out buddy. Size unimportant. Small dick is nice to @ my height. Under 40 yrs, versatile. Into 69. ☎ 71122

Muscular Guy Seeks Asian

I'm caucasian, 47 yrs, healthy, work out 4 days a week. Is there a smooth, muscular Asian out there who is serious, dependable and not into playing games? If so, call me...lets meet. ☎ 71125

SEEKING ADVENTURE

Looking For A Hung Guy?

If you're looking for a guy who is hung at least "9" inches, is sexy loves to services, party, 69, watch videos, call me ☎ 71051

STR8 Guys! I Wanna Suck You!

I can do a way better job than your girlfriends. We can 69, watch videos and DVD's, and have fun. ☎ 71052

Hispanic Guys. I'm Looking

for Hispanic men who are hung and good-looking and hot, to service, watch videos and have a hot time. ☎ 71053

Looking For Guys In Marin

I'm looking for guys in Marin County, who are hung or good looking, for fun and good times, to party, etc. ☎ 71054

Beer and Strip Poker

Lets relax with a few beers and see who ends up naked first. Masculine swimmer with lean build and handsome cut dick looking for another masculine guy with lean build 18-45. ☎ 71083

Spank Your Butt

Hot, masculine top, 38, 5'11", 175#, seeks well-built bottom with nice round ass for over-the-knee spanking, role playing and plowing your ass. ☎ 71086

Yes Yes-Hung-Yes No Yes Vers

48 Rugged good looks. 9 1/2 X 7 German-Cherokee, artist, poz 18 years. Healthy, happy, ISO mature partner, hung a plus. ☎ 71087

Blonde All American Guy

Looking for hook up. For tonite, maybe for life. Who knows. I'm 37. Str8 looking-acting. ☎ 71088

48 5'9" 150# GYM Toned Handsome

Seeks wkend L.T.R. w/Friend/lover during the week. We each live our busy lives, looking forward to the weekend & being together. Be 18-60 in-shape & gd looking w/a cool attitude. I'm into art, reading, hiking, Zen & yoga, working out & hot sex. S.F., Santa Rosa, San Raphael. ☎ 71089

Italian AM Muscular Seek Asian

46 yrs., clean, HIV negative, work out 4 days a week. Wishes to date, on regular basis, a smooth, muscular Asian. I'm romantic, passionate, sincere. Please be stable, no flakes, b/s. ☎ 71090

Muscular Guy Seeks Huge Nipples

I'm a nice guy w/muscular body, clean, HIV negative, stable. Seeks a smooth, muscular guy w/huge protruding nipples to date on a regular basis. I have a very good mouth, and will satisfy you. Pls no B/S. ☎ 71091

Prof. Bartender Aims To Please!

Me: WM, 44 y old, 6'1", 220 lbs., S & P, h2l, stache, gd. lking, horny 24/7. You: Older, hairy, clean, bald, 40-60 WM, professional, stable, hung. South Bay - Peninsula a plus! ☎ 71092

Mature Asian Men

WLM 46, 6', 165 lbs, moderately hairy. ISO older Asian men over 60 who enjoy slow sensual oral pleasure all over. Not into the gay scene or lifestyle. LTR possible. ☎ 71093

Platinum Polar Bear

HIV+ top, 50, 5'8" 200# S/P/B 7.5" cut big nuts. Takes charge or kicks back. Multi-loaded, long sessions, any age/race. LTR or 1 nite stand. Daytime, too. ☎ 71094

"Nipples & Ass"

I love big, large, swollen, puffy nipples. 18 to 35. Slim or muscle bound for some mainly spankings. I'm aggressive, strong loving man. No fats or fems. ☎ 71095

"Puffy Nipples"

Seeking males 25 to 45 with large swollen nipples. No extended nipples and no fats or fems. Give me something to suck & fuck. Latino's and mixed race. ☎ 71096

Needed: Cute, Young, Smooth, Hung

Blonde. Financial reward. Give Daddy what he wants, and Daddy will give you what you want. ☎ 71105

"Young Nipples"

18 to 20, goodlooking males for some lessons in lovemaking. GBM, 52, 5'10", 200, Ch. 50". You, submissive Latin, Black and Asian. No fats or fems. Mixed race a plus. ☎ 71097

Hungry Blk Sub Sks Dom Top

5'10" 160 muscular slave. Seeks very dom, aggressive, verbal top. Into everything. Eager to obey. You command, I obey. I love to be verbally abused, forced, plowed, tied, spanked. ☎ 71103

Cocksucker Looking For Big

WM, 50, 5'9", hairy, heavy, gr eyes, easy going, bottom & great cocksucker that loves to swallow. Looking for big tools, pref black or latino. Looking for reg, possible LTR. ☎ 71104

Seeking Clean Men

For Hispanic men who are hung and good-looking and hot, to service, watch videos and have a hot time. ☎ 71053

Friendly GAM Seeking Fun

GAM, 27, 5'7", 140, smooth, fit, gdlooking. Looking for other cute GAM/GWM under 35 for hot sensual fun & friendship. Must be slim, friendly & cute. ☎ 71113

Batter Up!

39, WM, bl/bl, 195lb, clean cut muscular guy seeks field club or lower box date to Giants games. Lunch or dinner at Zagat-rated restaurant a plus. Call any time. ☎ 71114

Talmen Only

With small dick - will get good and interesting treatment, please call. ☎ 71115

Hard Riding Top

Linebacker built stocky fun hung h-nrg guy 50 s/p blond ISO shaved/bald hardcore bottom to rim-n ride. Any age/race pass, LTR for right fuck buddy. ☎ 71116

Hungry Blk Sub Sks Dom Top

5'10", 160, muscular slave. Seeks very dom, aggressive, verbal top. Into everything, eager to obey. You command, I obey. I love to be verbally abused, forced, plowed, tied, spanked. ☎ 71121

Smooth Asian

Seeking smooth gym toned white males to service orally and jerk off together. Let's play on a regular basis. ☎ 71126

Seeking GWM For Private Party

Sexy GWM seeks tight Asian bottoms for private play party. Must be HIV-, no drugs, safe, slender. Call ASAP. ☎ 71128

Sex Off Street

Hot Sex! ☎ 71127

FETISHES

Maximized/Spurred Load Fetish!

ISO major/spurred shoots that almost take my head off. "process" your dick/balls "compensationally" to reap/earn this reward! ☎ 71056

Discipline...

Senior male will accept discipline. Slim, smooth shaved body. Experienced. Erotic. Available days, weekends. Upper Haight. ☎ 71107

Torture My Testicles

48, 5'10", 145, HIV negative (you too), Slim, almost hairless body with cute little genitals that invite pain.4 ☎ 71108

Serious Moustache Fetish

Sincere, honest, mature and endowed black gentleman, 49, 5'9", 180, balding, 'stache, 8.5 inches. Seeking a mature, masculine man with a moustache only for good times. All races. ☎ 71098

Good Looking Bottom Blonde Bl'6

Like being restrained under a rim seat. Like to huff on man smel's & poppers, heavy into ass hole worship, love being a toilet for hairy ass men. ☎ 71117

Do You Smoke A Pipe? (Tobacco)

College jock seeks older chubby daddy (250+) to orally satisfy while he smokes his pipe. No reciprocation wanted. Please be a true pipe smoker. ☎ 71119

Scraggly, beard stubbled jeans guy

seeking similar guy. Heavy intense j/o, dirty talk, phallic worship, partying buddy desired. Some oral OK. Your place, PM only. Not into toys, videos, groups, anal. Long partying sessions only. ☎ 71120

Dirty-Minded Older Men

WM 46, 165lbs, dark hair. I'm looking for hot, raunchy & kinky times with older men; alone or in groups. Husky/heavy set a plus. Not into pain, S & M, VA, drugs or the gay scene. ☎ 71118

Average Load Shot In 3 Spurts?

Let's try for 5, my superior techniques/talented tongue routinely achieve 6! Win coveted unexpected prize/write home to Mom! ☎ 71130

Write Your Own Headline?

4:35am, you awake alone with massive hard-on/not to worry/you call, in minutes. I'm down on that meat, your load past history! ☎ 71132

Looking For Rape Fetish

WM, 28, smooth, 5'10", 140, with GBL-masculine WM 25. Me asleep. You feel good. ☎ 71129

Dubya's Suck N'Swallow Svc

Takes loads off your mind w/one phone call, per-- midnite to 6am OK-- Shoot big time every time via constitutional amendment! ☎ 71131

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Room Available For Sex No Strings

5'9", 170 shaved head 32 looking for guys between ages 18-50 who come to San Diego and need a place to stay and have fun. ☎ 71085

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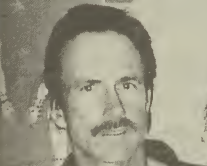


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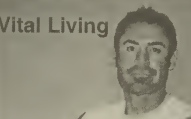
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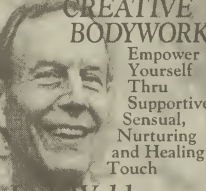


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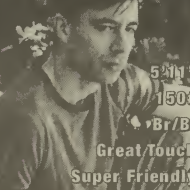
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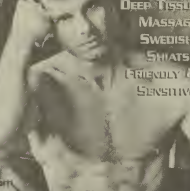
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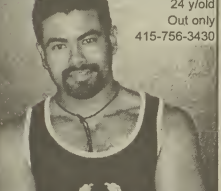
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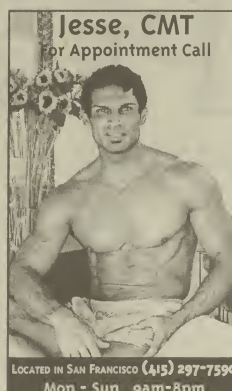
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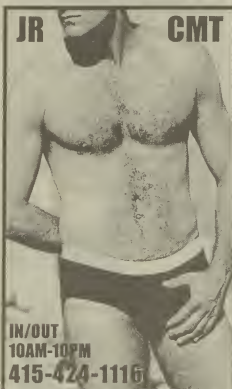


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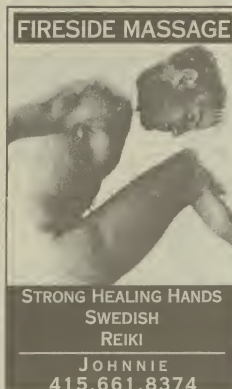
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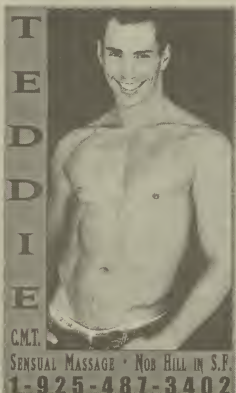
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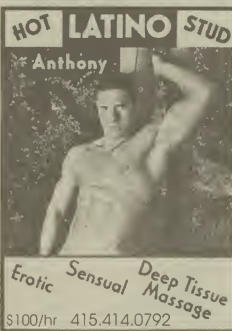
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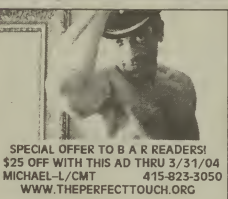
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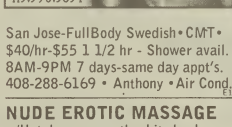
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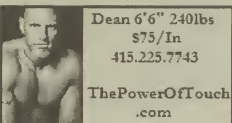
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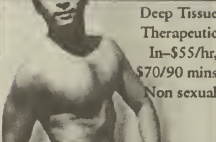
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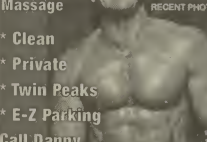
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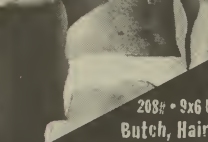
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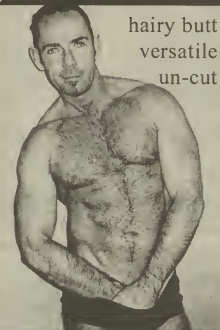
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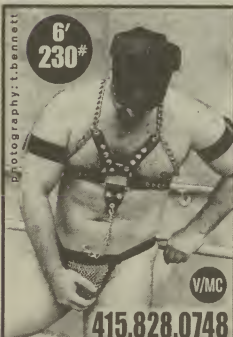
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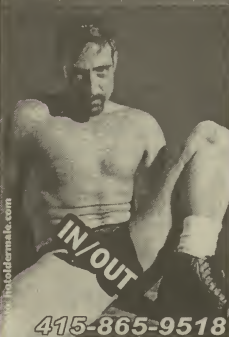
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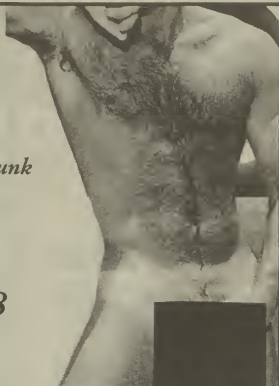
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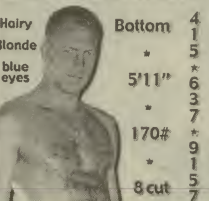


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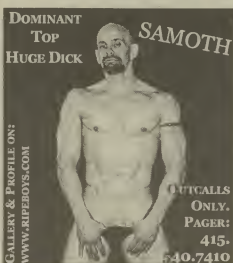


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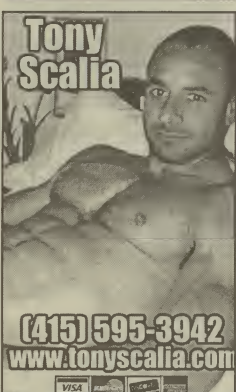
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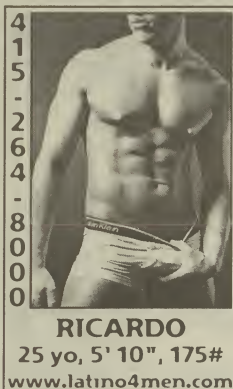


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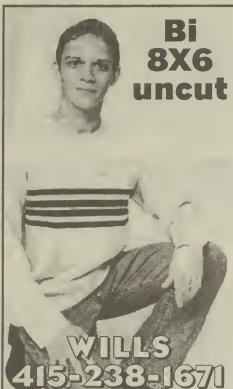


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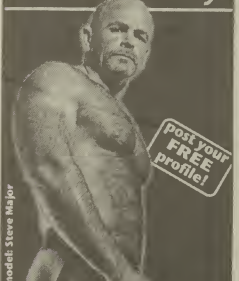
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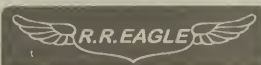
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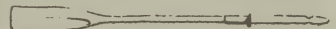


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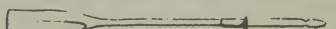
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